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NO. 7511 TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 1989 SHABAN 14, 1409 AH 18 PAGES 150 FILLS

Radicals active 67 killed in Sri Lanka violence

COLOMBO, March 20, (UPI): Slayings linked to a drive by Sinhalese radicals to topple the government left 67 people dead across Sri Lanka, including 15 young men apparently killed in retaliation for the landmine deaths of three police officers, officials said today.

A senior police official reported the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) shot dead 49 victims overnight in central, northern and southern areas during a slew in overnight attacks he believed were in response to 10 days of search operations that had netted some 1,500 suspected extremists.

The radicals from the majority Buddhist Sinhalese community have for more than 18 months waged their drive aimed at unseating the government in response to its acceptance of an Indian-brokered plan to end a five-year-old rebellion in the north and east by minority Hindu Tamils.

In the most serious action, they said radicals yesterday detonated a landmine beneath a police patrol vehicle as it passed through Palugaswewa village, 130 miles (210 km) northeast of Colombo, instantly killing one officer and critically wounding five others, two of whom later died in hospital.

20 die as Israeli jets blast bases

Palestinian guerrilla chief threatens attacks

BAR ELIAS, March 20, (Agencies): Israeli warplanes rocketed Palestinian bases in eastern Lebanon today, killing 20 people in the deepest thrust in Syrian-held territory this year, police and Palestinian sources said.

Police said six Israeli warplanes raided three times slamming rockets into two bases of the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command near the village of Bar Elias, six miles (nine km) west of the Syrian border.

At least 20 people, including 10 guerrillas, were killed and 20 others were wounded, police said.

A spokesman for the group in Beirut told United Press International that among the dead guerrillas was a member of the PFLP-GC's central committee, but refused to identify the official.



Jewish women attacked during prayer

Ultra-Orthodox men hurled chairs, bottles and fruit at about 50 Jewish women who held an all-female prayer session at dawn yesterday at the Western Wall, police said. Police fired tear-gas to break up the crowds after a woman was lightly injured by a chair that landed on her head and neck, police spokesman Uzi Sandori said. He said no one was arrested in the melee at Judaism's holiest site, also known as the Wailing Wall. Picture shows a Jewish man wearing a prayer shawl runs across the plaza in front of the Western Wall as he hurts an exploding tear-gas canister towards the women's section of the Wall. (Reuter wirephoto)

Israel 'must' talk to PLO

Upgrade talks, US told

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 20, (Agencies): A secret report from the intelligence services to the Israeli cabinet says Israel has no alternative to negotiating with the PLO, Israel Radio said today.

The conclusions of the annual national intelligence estimate were leaked to several Israeli newspapers as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir tried to rally world Jewish leaders in Jerusalem behind his refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

Right-wing parliamentarian Michael Elitan accused aides to dovish Vice-Premier Shimon Peres of leaking the report, which he said was compiled by the head of military intelligence, Major-General Amnon Shahak.

The study says the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip will continue indefinitely if Israel does not take a substantive step towards negotiations with the PLO, according to the newspapers.

It also says there is no serious leadership in the occupied territories independent of the PLO, undermining Shamir's contention that only "PLO terrorism" prevents genuine moderate leaders from talking to Israel.

Political sources said the report, representing a consensus of the Mossad overseas espionage agency, the Shin Bet internal security service and military intelligence, was submitted to the 12-man inner cabinet last Wednesday.

The newspapers also quoted the study as saying the PLO had

Mubarak urges US to activate peace role

CAIRO, March 20, (AP): It's time for the United States to activate its role as peacemaker to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, President Hosni Mubarak said today.

He also said in a parliamentary speech that Israel's return of a beach enclave to Egyptian control last week will have "good effects" not only on bilateral relations but also on prospects for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

And once again he urged Israel to stop opposing an international peace conference, which he said he sees as an umbrella for the direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations wanted by the Jewish state's leaders.

"We believe conditions are propitious for activation of the American role," Mubarak told a joint session of the People's Assembly, Egypt's legislature, and the Shura Council, a consultative body of elders.

"All parties welcome the American role, particularly at this stage, which is witnessing greater détente between the two superpowers, a clearer definition of the constructive Soviet position and entrenchment of an effective (West) European role."

This seemed to be his answer to recent statements by President George Bush and other American officials of a cautious, deliberate approach toward formulation of Washington's policy on Arab-Israeli peacekeeping.

Mubarak's remarks also reflected Cairo's long-standing conviction that Washington holds the key to peace efforts. The US mediated the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, 10 years old this week.

Ethnic leaders appeal for calm in Karachi

KARACHI, March 20, (Reuters): Ethnic leaders in Karachi appealed today for an end to communal riots in Pakistan's biggest city which have killed at least 29 people in 10 days.

In separate appeals, leaders of Pashtuns from the north-west, Punjabis from central Pakistan and mohajir immigrants urged their communities to shun violence and restore calm.

"Every Pakistani wants peace," Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a former Punjab governor, told reporters when he arrived in Karachi for talks with ethnic leaders.

Pashtun leader Ghulam Sarwar Awan and Altaf Hussain, representing the mohajir migrants, who came to Pakistan from other parts of former British India after partition in 1947, also spoke out for an end to the bloodshed.

The provincial government in Sind, which is a coalition between Benazir's Pakistan People's Party and the mohajirs, is to set up broad-based peace committees to try to check the violence, a spokesman said today.

At least seven people with bullet wounds were brought to government hospitals from curfew areas last night, doctors said.

Troops are enforcing the curfew in seven districts of east Karachi, but residents said by telephone that sniper fire could still be heard.

Police said the city of more than seven million people was generally calm today.

Lahore: Three thousand Christians carrying crosses and waving placards marched through Lahore today protesting delays in construction of a church (AP).

Conspiracy to kill Indira India to charge four

NEW DELHI, March 20, (UPI): The government plans to charge at least four people for conspiring to assassinate Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, but has cleared one of her aides allegedly implicated in the murder who now advises her son and successor, a report said today.

The Press Trust of India quoted "highly placed official sources" as saying at least two of the alleged conspirators were already in custody, and that authorities within one month would probably start proceedings against two other people for involvement in the Oct 31, 1984 slaying.

It was the first official indication that others may be linked to Indira's death at the hands of two Sikh security guards, an action for which one of the gunmen and a second Sikh were hanged on Jan 6.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi since Tuesday has been engulfed in a controversy sparked by a newspaper report that a special commission probing Indira's murder had questioned the possible involvement of R.K. Dhawan, her most trusted aide and now a senior adviser to her son.

Rajiv on Friday said he would release at the next meeting of Parliament on March 27 the report by the commission headed by Supreme Court Justice M.P. Thakkar, a document the government has suppressed since May 1985 on the grounds of national security.

The prime minister said he wished to end "willful distortion, malicious innuendo and irresponsible character assassination" sparked by the disclosures.

Publication of excerpts of the Thakkar Commission report by the anti-government Indian Express newspaper caused two days of disruptive outbursts by opposition legislators, leading to the temporary suspension of 63 lower house members and a boycott of the upper house by opponents of Rajiv's Congress (I) Party.

The prime minister pledged that "necessary follow-up action will be taken," and the sources told the Press Trust that a special police investigation team had completed a report on the disclosures and had advised authorities to file a chargesheet against at least four people.

The sources said the order was "likely to be passed soon," but they refused to disclose the identity of the accused, except to say that Dhawan was not among them.

A "detailed and thorough investigation" by the police team had found Dhawan was "totally innocent," they said, reiterating an assertion by other officials that sleuths had cleared the senior aide.

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- کراچی میں صورت حال پر سکون ہے
- اسرائیلی طیاروں کی فلسطینی ٹھکانوں پر بمباری
- سری لنکائی شہر کی نئی لہر
- اندر اقل کیس کی تحقیقات
- پھر ہوگی
- بھارتی حسد کے معاشرتی کی داستان

WEATHER

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate.
High water: 12:00 pm
Low water: 6:00 am, 6:00 pm
Sunrise: 5:51 am
Sunset: 6:00 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 23°C 73°F
Ahmad: 21°C 70°F
Fahala: 20°C 68°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 12°C 54°F
Ahmad: 15°C 59°F
Fahala: 15°C 59°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 24°C 75°F
Ahmad: 22°C 72°F
Fahala: 21°C 70°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 91 per cent
Ahmad: 74 per cent
Fahala: 75 per cent

Iran to hold military exercises in Gulf

TEHRAN, March 20, (KUNA): Joint land and sea military exercises will be carried out by the Iranian armed forces in the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman late next month, the official Iranian news agency, IRNA has reported.

Naval units, Air Force planes, and Army airborne units would join in the exercises, IRNA said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

AIDS death

MANILA, March 20, (Reuters): A 24-year-old prostitute who worked outside a US Air Force base is the first person to die in the Philippines from locally transmitted AIDS, a Manila health official said today.

The 19 other known AIDS cases in the country have involved either foreigners or Filipinos who got the disease abroad. Twelve of these victims have died.

Compensation

MANAMA, March 20, (AP): The US government has agreed to pay about \$18,000 in compensation to the family of an Indian fisherman, killed in a 1987 shooting incident involving an American warship in the Gulf, US diplomatic sources said today.

The sources said the settlement was reached with relatives of Jagdish Bagwan, 22, of Gujarat, India.

High rate of measles

WASHINGTON, March 20, (UPI): As many as 2,000 Americans have developed measles this year and at least 10 victims have died—an unusually high rate that has prompted health officials to consider new strategies against a disease once hoped to be extinct by now.

Detainees escape

PRETORIA, March 20, (Reuters): Four South African student activists escaped from police custody in hospital today and took refuge in the West German embassy, where they demanded the release of detainees held in "apartheid dungeons."

Pyle, 45, dies

MILWAUKEE, March 20, (AP): Steven J. Pyle, an Associated Press photographer whose assignments took him from Papal travels in Latin America to Super Bowls and Olympic Games, has died. He was 45.

Trial of coup plotters

COLOMBO, March 20, (AP): The trial of four Maldivians accused of participating in last year's attempt to overthrow Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has begun, an official of the Indian Ocean archipelago said today.

Gunmen kill father of 13 in Belfast

BELFAST, March 20, (AP): A father of 13 was shot to death in north Belfast last night as he and his wife were praying.

Neighbours said two gunmen stormed into the house in the city's Ardoyne area and shot David Braniff, 63, in the kitchen. They said he died with his rosary in his hands beside his wife, Mary.

No group had claimed responsibility for the killing by last evening, but local Parliament Member Cecil Walker described it as "blatantly sectarian."

If so, Braniff, a Roman Catholic, the third person

murdered in north Belfast in four days, would be the latest victim in a recent series of retaliation killings between Protestants and Catholics in the enervated 20-year sectarian conflict.

Braniff's son, Anthony, was shot to death by the Irish Republican Army in 1981 for allegedly being a police informer, a charge rejected by his family.

The elder Braniff had been a Protestant before he married and had British flags tattooed on his arms, enabling him to work as a bricklayer in Protestant areas of Belfast.



Roh: resists

Roh shelves referendum plan

SEOUL, March 20, (Reuters): South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, resisting government hawk, today called off a referendum which many feared would provoke a constitutional crisis.

Roh said on national television he was indefinitely postponing the "interim assessment" he promised during the 1987 election campaign.

He said he feared radicals would try to exploit a vote to fan unrest. Right-wing members of the ruling camp had previously raised the so-called leftist threat to try to push the President into

risking a national confidence vote.

Perhaps surprisingly in view of this country's turbulent politics, the three opposition parties all issued statements approving the President's move.

Analysts said all three, while fearing a loss of their present majority position in the National Assembly, were also genuinely concerned at the possibility of political tensions which could put at risk recent democratic reforms after years of Army-backed strongman rule.

The extra-parliamentary

opposition, however, remained combative. The main dissident coalition said Roh's decision "insulted our people" while radical students battled riot police in demonstrations in Seoul and the southeastern city of Kwangju.

Though the mainstream parties had already begun gearing up for the plebiscite, expected on or about April 12, the President today called a halt.

"Not a few have maintained that the authority of the President and the administration would be strengthened by win-

ning a vote of confidence through a national referendum, even though this would entail some commotion," Roh said on television.

"However, I have come to the conclusion that such concern and anxiety must not be inflicted on the people, regardless of the outcome."

"It is my belief as President that, under no circumstance, should I do anything that would bring about divisiveness and confusion."

Last week a leading hawk in the cabinet, Government

Administration Minister Kim Yong-Kap, resigned in an apparent bid to put pressure on Roh.

He said the President should use the referendum opportunity to crack down on radical students and dissidents and what he called "the menace of leftism."

His voice was countered by the country's most influential opposition leader Kim Dae-Jung, the veteran democracy campaigner who now heads the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD).

Violence-marred Salvador polls

Cristiani claims victory

SAN SALVADOR, March 20, (UPI): Businessman Alfredo Cristiani, taking an early lead in violence-marred presidential elections, claimed a "massive victory" for his conservative National Republican Alliance and said he wanted to open a dialogue with guerrillas.

The rebels launched dozens of attacks across the country late Saturday and during voting yesterday in what observers said was one of the largest single-day offensives in recent memory.

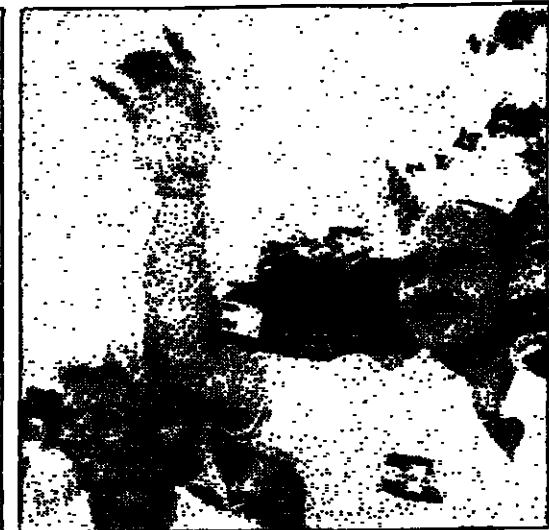
Independent sources said at least 24 people died, including 12 guerrillas, seven soldiers, two civilians and three journalists killed in questionable circumstances.

A Defence Ministry bulletin said 37 rebels were killed, while the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) claimed to have launched 43 separate attacks that left 119 soldiers dead or wounded. Neither report could be independently confirmed. FMLN called off their nationwide transport ban today.

Sunday's voting was to choose a successor to Christian Democratic President Jose Napoleon Duarte, the dominant figure in Salvadoran politics and a staunch ally of the United States, which has poured some \$3.8 billion in aid into El Salvador in the past decade. Duarte, who is suffering from cancer, plans to retire on June 1.



A cameraman for a Salvadoran television station (left) stares at his brother's dead body, who was killed by troops and supporters in downtown San Salvador. (Reuters wirephotos)



No peace treaty signed

Japanese-Soviet talks fail

TOKYO, March 20, (AP): A meeting between Soviet and Japanese diplomats failed to produce any new agreements toward a peace treaty between the two countries, technically at war since 1945, officials said today.

Instead, most of the talks were devoted to issues concerning Asia in general, including Soviet-China relations, and tensions on the Korean peninsula, a ranking Foreign Ministry official said.

Participating in the talks were Deputy Foreign

Minister Igor Rogachev, head of the Soviet delegation, and Japan's Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Takakazu Kuriyama.

Rogachev said the Soviet Union is prepared to help Japan improve relations with communist North Korea, according to an official.

But regarding bilateral affairs, the official quoted Kuriyama as saying that the two nations "have not created a sufficient political foundation" to sign a peace treaty.

Woman gets 'new lease on life'

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania, March 20, (AP): A woman once considered terminally ill by doctors is cancer-free after receiving an experimental, four-organ abdominal transplant, hospital officials say.

Diana Hancock, 40, was admitted to Presbyterian University Hospital of Pitts-

burgh on Jan 12 with an inoperable tumour on her liver bile duct. The following day, surgeons replaced her liver, pancreas, duodenum, and two sections of her small intestine.

Diana said the transplant has given her "a new lease on life."

"Now I have all the hope in the world," she said.

Row over Swedish bugging scandal

STOCKHOLM, March 20, (Reuters): Swedish secret policemen believed senior figures in the ruling Social Democratic Party were in contact with terrorists, according to new revelations in the country's bugging scandal. Furthermore, a series of often contradictory statements over the weekend has painted a picture of a secret police force in considerable disarray, with allegations that officers took initiatives without authority.

The government last Friday said it had uncovered a plot by officers of the SAPO security police to eavesdrop on Deputy Foreign Minister Pierre Schori as part of the hunt for the murderer of Prime Minister Olof Palme. The officers were interested in Schori because of his contacts with a French professor of Kurdish studies, whom they believed may have been connected with the 1986 assassination of Palme, according to Swedish press reports.

Palme was shot by a lone gunman while walking home from a cinema. Police at the time were convinced that he was the victim of a political plot and focused their inquiries on a left-wing Kurdish organisation.

But the Kurdish theory later disintegrated and police are currently holding a 41-year-old Swede as the suspected murderer.

The decision to bug Schori appeared to have been taken without either the head of the secret police or the politicians responsible for overseeing its actions being consulted.

"There was no conceivable interest from the security police as an organisation to plan surveillance of Pierre Schori," said SAPO chief Sune Sandstrom, who called the deputy minister to apologise for the action of his men.

Opposition stages rally in Athens

ATHENS, March 20, (AP): More than 200,000 opposition New Democracy Party followers yesterday staged a rally in central Athens to protest the government's alleged involvement in a financial scandal.

Addressing the rally, party leader Constantine Mitsotakis called for the socialist government to resign for humiliating Greece's international image and undermining democratic institutions.

"I accuse the premier of deceiving the Greek people with illusory visions and abusing their trust in him ... by instituting a corrupt state," Mitsotakis said.

Channon under pressure to quit

Bomb warning posted after new year

LONDON, March 20, (Agencies): Transport Secretary Paul Channon was under pressure today to explain or resign over his department's handling of warnings about the type of bomb believed to have brought down Pan Am Flight 103.

Britain's opposition leaders have demanded that Channon explain to the House of Commons the sequence of events that resulted in Pan Am receiving a warning about a cassette-player bomb nearly a month after the explosion.

The first warnings went out in November after the West German raid.

Channon's department admitted yesterday it alerted airlines to the type of bomb that destroyed Flight 103 with a Dec 19-dated letter. The exact date the letters were mailed has not been disclosed.

The government admitted yesterday that a letter dated December 19 — two days before the crash — was not sent to airlines until early January.

A Transport Department spokesman said it was delayed because colour photographs of a suspect radio cassette recorder had to be prepared.

Pan Am has said it did not

receive the warning until Jan 17. Channon has said the warning was "totally unimportant" because his department sent a telex on Nov 22 which contained the vital information about the bombs.

"Channon must provide a full explanation of the delay ... his department was remarkably incompetent and irresponsible," said "Bryan Gould," Labour's trade and industry spokesman. Gould added that Channon should resign if he could not reveal the exact details.

Channon has said he has already said as much as he could without jeopardizing investigations of the bombing.

The evening standard, meanwhile, reported that police believe the bomb contained only one or two pounds (400 to 900 grams) of the powerful plastic explosive semtex moulded into a radio-cassette player.

Forensic experts are certain the bomb's impact was a massive "fluke," the newspaper reported. "A baggage handler placed it, quite by chance, next to a stressed, riveted seam in the aircraft's hold. When the bomb went off, it destroyed about two dozen rivets, and the jumbo (jet)'s skin was pierced," the newspaper

said. The newspaper said that because of the bomb's position in the hold, British investigators are "99 per cent certain" it did not originate in Britain.

Flight 103 originated in Frankfurt, West Germany, and transferred to a larger plane at London's Heathrow airport, before taking off for New York on Dec 21.

In Bonn, a statement by Interior Ministry spokesman Roland Bachmeier said West German authorities showed British experts a bomb disguised as a radio-cassette player five weeks before the Pan Am accident.

British authorities acknowledged yesterday that a warning about such a disguised bomb was not mailed to airlines until after the tragedy.

Bachmeier said British authorities attended a briefing by the West German Federal Crime Bureau on Nov 15 at which an explosive device hidden in a radio-cassette player was demonstrated.

The radio-cassette player contained a plastic explosive and a timing device that authorities have said are the same as those used in the Pan Am bombing.

Congress opens

Li Peng calls for greater thrift

BEIJING, March 20, (AP): Premier Li Peng today opened the annual session of China's huge, Communist Party-dominated legislature with a call for greater thrift, hard work and discipline to overcome worsening economic problems.

"Both government and people should be mentally prepared for a few years of austerity," Li told 2,768 delegates gathered at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

"If we set a good example and explain clearly to the people the need for tightening our belts, they will surely understand and support it," he said.

The only exceptions Li made to the tight-money policy were agriculture and education. Both sectors are considered key to development but critics say they have been given low priority in recent state budgets in favour of more exciting projects.

The tone of Li's speech contrasted sharply with that of last year's congress, which called for bold new efforts to move the economy away from rigid central planning that had long stifled growth. Since then, however, inflation has climbed to a post-war record rate of 36 per cent, and overheated demand has caused shortages, hoarding and several bank runs.

Li blamed the economic problems on "a tendency to be too impatient for quick results."

Population
"More often than not we tended to ignore the fact that China has a huge population, is relatively short of resources and has an unevenly developed economy," Li said in a lengthy criticism of policies in the recent past that he helped shape.

"We ... did not pay sufficient attention to taking comprehensive and co-ordinated measures and failed to tighten control and supervision at the right moment," he said. "We were too optimistic."

Li delivered his more than two-hour-long speech largely in a monotone, clearing his throat frequently and rarely looking up.

He was interrupted by enthusiastic applause when he reaffirmed China's claim to sovereignty over Tibet and denounced any foreign support of Tibetan separatism as "outrageous interference in China's internal affairs."

40 drowned

BEIJING, March 20, (UPI): A boat jammed with triple its safe capacity of passengers capsized on a river in South China, pitching dozens of people into the water and drowning more than 40, the semi-official China news service reported today.

The report said the accident occurred last Friday at Hengshan city on the Xiang River in Hunan province and was the worst in the river's recorded navigation history.

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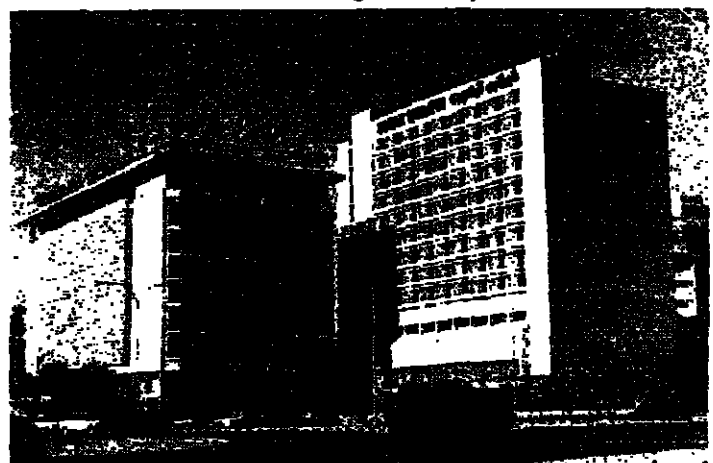
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مكتبة

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INTERNATIONAL

Nineteen die as US helicopter explodes

SEOUL, March 20, (AP): Nineteen US Marines were killed and 16 others injured today when a helicopter exploded in a remote mountainous area in the second fatal Marine air crash in South Korea in four days, officials said.

A Marine Corps official said the large troop-carrying Sikorsky CH-53D Sea Stallion helicopter crashed near the port

of Pohang on the southeastern coast while taking part in exercises with South Korean forces.

Officials initially said 22 Marines were killed in the crash, but later lowered the figure to 19 because of confusion in early reports from the crash site. The injured included 15 Marines aboard the helicopter and one

injured on the ground during rescue operations, they said.

Nine of the injured were listed in very serious condition with burns.

The helicopter, assigned to the 1st Marine Air Wing based at Futenma Marine Corps air station in Okinawa, Japan, was carrying four crewmen and 30

Marine infantrymen, the spokesman said.

The infantrymen were from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines of the 1st Marine division based at Camp Pendleton, California, he said.

Marine officials said they had no immediate word on what caused the crash. Little of the

helicopter was left but charred pieces of wreckage.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, cited South Korean military officials as saying that the helicopter exploded in midair and burst into flames before slamming into the ground. The report said the helicopter appeared to experience an engine problem.



Trains collide

Rescue workers inspect the tracks after two passenger trains collided head-on near Industria Station in the western suburbs of Johannesburg on Sunday. The driver of one train and one passenger were killed in the smash and scores of injured were taken to local hospitals. (Reuters wirephoto)

On the light side

Last Emperor wins UK award

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters): The Last Emperor by Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci gained top honours at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards on Sunday.

The movie about Pu Yi's fall from emperor to gardener was named best film.

Luis Malle was voted best director for his *An-Revoir-les-Enfants*, an account of his childhood Jewish friends during the Nazi occupation of France.

The offbeat comedy *A Fish Called Wanda* picked up two British film Oscars. John Cleese was voted best actor and co-star Michael Palin best supporting actor.

Maggie Smith was judged best actress for her role as the unhappy spinster in *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne*.

Actors protest cuts

ALBANY, New York, March 20, (AP): Long before opera singer Roberta Peters broke into a chorus of *Climb Every Mountain* it was clear this wasn't a typical state legislative hearing.

Actor Tony Randall wagged a finger at lawmakers in classic Felix Unger style from his long-running TV series *The Odd Couple*. Legislators carried cameras for candid celebrity shots. Two actors walked in on stills.

The performers came to complain that arts groups were not being allowed enough money in the state budget.

Love story about Cuba

HAVANA, March 20, (Reuters): Sidney Pollack, the Oscar-winning American director, says he is planning to film a love story set in the turmoil of Cuba a week before the triumph of its 1959 revolution.

Here at the invitation of the Cuban Film Institute, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary, the director of *Out of Africa* and critically acclaimed *Tootsie* told Cuban television on Saturday he was thinking of using Cuban actors for the film.

He did not elaborate, however, and did not say if the film would be shot on location in Cuba.

Motown stars reunited

DETROIT, March 20, (AP): The mellow voices of Motown broke into sobs and laughter as the stars who made the record label and the city famous were reunited at a party organised by a British record producer.

"It feels like '62 — and '63 and '64 and '65," said Esther Edwards, sister of Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr. "Anytime the Motown family gets together. It's just a lot of love and happiness and nostalgia. It's been 30 years and it's still a family."

AIDS money not spent

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida, March 20, (AP): Sophia Loren is the featured attraction at an upcoming fund-raiser for AIDS patients. But the organisers have yet to spend most of the \$150,000 raised by Elizabeth Taylor at a similar function last year.

About \$100,000 raised by the umbrella group Comprehensive AIDS Programme is unspent because of disruptions caused by recent changes in its board of directors and staff.

Swallows in California

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, California, March 20, (UPI): A small flock of swallows arrived on schedule on Sunday at mission San Juan Capistrano, fulfilling a 200-year-old tradition that is seen as a welcoming of spring and a tribute to a saint.

More than 1,000 people crowded in front of the domed adobe church to see the morning's first few birds fly into the historic courtyard, and by afternoon more than 7,000 had passed through the mission's gates. Thousands more milled about outside and throughout the quaint coastal town.

Teacher helps son in cheating

DHAKA, March 20, (Reuters): A headmaster was arrested today for helping his son cheat in an examination. Gholam Zakaria, headmaster of Shibgonj Model High School in northern Kishoreganj district, and his son Shamim Ahmed were arrested for what police described as an "unprecedented offence."

Soviet elections

All the eyes on Yeltsin

MOSCOW, March 20, (Reuters): Boris Yeltsin, cheered by thousands of Muscovites but under investigation by the ruling Communist Party, has emerged as the focal point in next Sunday's multi-candidate Soviet elections.

Some 7,000 protesters marched through the centre of Moscow on Sunday to back the disgraced former Moscow party chief and junior politician member — the first such demonstration in the capital since the late 1920s.

On Saturday, a similar crowd outside a suburban supermarket roared approval when Yeltsin denounced the commission set up last week by the party's central committee to probe allegations that he had deviated from the party line during the campaign.

"Hands of Yeltsin, down with the commission," shouted the demonstrators, who massed in front of the Moscow City Council and demanded to see Lev Zadkov, Yeltsin's successor as Moscow party chief.

No one emerged from the locked building, though several people hung out of an upstairs window to film the crowd.

Protest

The protesters shouted support for Yeltsin's call for an end to special privileges enjoyed by senior party leaders. Many also complained that Soviet television crews had not joined Western teams filming the protest.

"You'll see this in your country, but we won't see it on television here," one man told correspondents.

There was no mention of the demonstration either on the

evening television news or by the official Tass news agency.

The protesters, many sporting Yeltsin badges or carrying placards, had marched in disciplined formation to the red colonnaded building from Gorky Park, where authorities had cancelled an election rally at short notice.

Some protesters, angered that police had failed to provide them with a megaphone, began shouting "On to Red Square."

Scuffles broke out briefly as they were stopped by a three-deep cordon of police and a barricade of buses quickly set up across the street.

A senior police officer produced a megaphone and demonstrators regrouped to deliver speeches opposite the council offices — at the foot of a monument to Moscow's legendary founder, Yuri Dolgoruky.

Yeltsin has been accused by some party officials, including conservative politician Yegor Ligachev, of being ambitious and a demagogue. Ligachev was also a target of Sunday's demonstrators.

But his programme has been embraced by many ordinary people increasingly weary of chronic shortages of food and other basic goods.

"He may not be squeaky clean, but you show me a man in this day and age without shortcomings," said one demonstrator in her sixties.

The protesters at Sunday's demonstration approved by a show of hands an appeal to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev demanding the dissolution of the commission investigating Yeltsin.

Pearl Harbour attack

US ignored warning

PERTH, Australia, March 20, (Reuters): A retired journalist who was close to Australian wartime Prime Minister John Curtin said today that Curtin twice warned Britain and the United States of an impending Japanese attack before Pearl Harbour.

Curtin's warnings were apparently ignored and Japan launched its attack on the US Pacific Naval Base at Pearl Harbour on Dec 7, 1941, prompting the United States to enter the war.

The claim comes two weeks after a former Australian spy chief, Captain Eric Nave, said he intended to publish memoirs suggesting that British wartime leader Winston Churchill withheld intelligence on Japan's Pearl Harbour plans to encourage Washington to join the allied war effort.

Journalist Paul Wood, who was stationed at a Canberra Airbase in 1941, told reporters he had interviewed Curtin on several occasions and was in close contact with the prime minister.

Curtin told Wood he gave the warnings after the Japanese embassy burned a large amount of documents. This raised the suspicions of government intelligence agents on whose advice he sent warnings to Britain and the United States, Wood said.

Right loses polls

French election results

PARIS, March 20, (Reuters): The French right was licking its wounds today after seeing up to 15 big cities fall into the hands of President Francois Mitterrand's governing Socialist Party.

First results in the second, conclusive round of municipal elections on Sunday showed that in spite of a rash of public sector strikes, the Socialists had wrested control of crucial centres such as Strasbourg, Aix-en-Provence, Dunkirk, Avignon, Brest and Orleans.

The right had dominated France's town halls ever since the last elections in 1983, when dissatisfaction with Mitterrand's Socialist presidency was at its height.

"Such a clear victory could not have been predicted, after eight years of Socialist presidency the situation is certainly rather exceptional," the left-wing daily Liberation said in an editorial.

Squabbles

But the paper said the left's success owed as much to the lack of any viable alternative to the minority government as to direct support for Prime Minister Michel Rocard's moderate policies.

The neo-Gaullist RPR and centrist UDF have been torn by internal squabbles and have come under heavy pressure from the extremist National Front Party, which is courting an electoral pact with the mainstream right.

Closing results of Sunday's second round of the French municipal elections, with an estimated 98 per cent of votes in metropolitan France counted.

(Comparative results of 1983 municipal elections — where applicable — follow in brackets.)

In terms of percentage of votes won: total left 36.26 (49.89), total right 48.12 (49.90).

Fringe parties: GREENS 1.03 (0.08), Nat. Front 2.39 (0.06), local separatists 0.08, Extreme left 0.09 (0.03).

(Rest of the votes went to non-affiliated candidates) in terms of seats won on local councils: total left 39.48 (38.32), total right 60.15 (61.25).

Fringe parties: GREENS 0.27 (0.08), Nat. Front 0.16 (0.06), local separatists 0.08, extreme left 0.18 (0.03), abstention rate: 27.66 (20.3).

"The opposition has still not yet recovered from the coma which followed the disastrous presidential elections," said Liberation, referring to Mitterrand's trouncing of RPR candidate and former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in May 1988.

For Chirac the consolation prize was a grand slam in Paris, where he is a popular and effective mayor. Repeating his performance in the last municipal elections Chirac won control of all 20 Parisian districts, humiliating rival Interior Minister Pierre Joxe.

The opposition also retained control of Lyon but France's third major city, Marseille, went to dissident Socialist candidate Robert Vigouroux.

In spite of the right's humiliation and the left's triumph, press attention today focused on the fringe parties, which emerged with unexpected vigour from the first round.

In towns in eastern and western France, the environmentalist Greens Party won between 10 and 22 per cent of the vote.

National Front leader Jean-Marie Le Pen, who campaigns on a virulent anti-immigrant platform, scored 11 per cent in one Paris district while his candidates won more than 20 per cent of the vote in three of the 45 towns where the party stood.

"The power of movements until now unwisely classed as marginal or ephemeral can no longer be subject to any doubt," said the right-wing daily Le Figaro.

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One-foot-man to scale Mount Everest

KATHMANDU, March 20, (UPI): An American with only one foot hopes to climb 29,029-foot (8,848-m) Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, this spring to show that disabled people are capable of surprising feats.

"I don't feel like a kamikazi pilot," said Tom Whitaker, 40, a teacher of therapeutic recreation for disabled people at Idaho State University at Pocatello, Idaho. "I go climbing not to make my life shorter. I do it for self-fulfillment."

Whitaker lost his right foot in a 1979 automobile accident, which also caused 16 leg fractures and the

loss of his right kneecap. He was hospitalised for three and a half months and said it took him two years to recover from the mishap.

"Reaching the summit of Everest is like winning at roulette," he said. "Anybody can reach there as long as the odds are favourable. For me they may even be longer. But for me to be part of the expedition is very exciting proposition."

Part of the goal of the expedition is to show that the disabled are capable of much more than society generally gives them credit for, he said.

Arabs and Westerners win King Faisal Award

RIYADH, March 20, (AP): Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz distributed this year's King Faisal Awards to eight winners, including four Westerners, at a ceremony last night.

The prestigious awards, which had been announced earlier, are distributed annually to honour excellence in the fields of science, medicine, Arabic literature, Islamic studies and service to Islam.

This year's winners included two Americans, a German, a Briton, two Egyptians, an Iraqi and a Syrian.

Luigi Mastroianni, an American, shared the prize in medicine with Briton Robert Geoffrey Edwards.

He later told the Associated Press that the award "is one of the four major prizes in the world in the fields of science and medicine," adding, "the fact that Saudi Arabia is doing this is astounding."

Mastroianni, whose specialty is infertility, is professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, and director of the division of human reproduction at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine.

His team currently runs a leading invitro-fertilisation programme in the United States.

Edwards, a professor of human reproduction at the University of Cambridge, was one of the doctors who assisted in the successful birth of the world's first test-tube baby in 1978.

Prof. Ahmed Zewail, an Egyptian-born American of the California Institute of Technology, told the Associated Press that winning the prizes in science was of special significance to him because "I am the first American-Arab that ever won this prize, and the first Arab to win it in science or medicine."

Zewail won the award for his pioneering research in the field of spectroscopy and his contribution toward the realisation of laser-driven chemical reactions. He shared the prize with Dr Theodore Hansch, a professor of physics at the University of Munich, West Germany, for his work in laser physics.

The prize for Islamic education achievement went to 72-year-old Egyptian exponent of the Islamic faith, Mohammed Al Ghazali.

US bid to bar fuel shipment

Iran-bound scarce chemical

LOS ANGELES, March 20, (Agencies): The US Customs Service is trying to block the shipment of a scarce rocket fuel chemical, claiming the material is bound for Iran where it could supply up to 300 military missiles, it was reported yesterday.

But a federal judge in Houston has issued a temporary injunction requiring the government to release the 1,144 drums of ammonium perchlorate, ruling it was not covered by the restricted munitions list and the Customs Service failed to prove it was bound for Iran, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The 286,000 pounds of the rocket fuel component was originally shipped in January of 1988 from Houston by Grindus Corp. of Tampa, Florida. It was seized the following month as it was being loaded onto the Iranian freighter in the Dutch port of Rotterdam.

The shipment was made during the Iran-Iraq war, when the two nations were using surface-to-surface missiles.

Grindus contends it never intended to sell the chemical to Iran. The shipping bill of lading shows it was bound for a buyer in Basel, Switzerland.

Compounding the Customs Service's difficulties in fighting the shipment is an apparent lack of co-operation among government departments, the Times

said.

Following the shipment seizure, the State Department issued a special export licence covering the shipment of the fuel component to Europe.

The Customs Service urged the State Department to revoke the export licence but State Department officials declined to do so. The State Department wouldn't comment on the case pending its court outcome, the report said.

US district judge Sim Lake ruled last week that the Customs Service did not have legal authority to seize the shipment because the chemical in its pure form wasn't listed on the restricted munitions list. The Customs Service maintains it has since been added to the list, the newspaper said.

Lake ordered the Customs Service to return the chemical, now in storage in Arkansas, or else begin other formal action requiring the company to forfeit it.

● A UAE newspaper meanwhile reported that Iran is to receive 180 tanks and 300 military vehicles from Romania and Czechoslovakia as part of its efforts to rebuild its Army.

The semi-official Al Itihad newspaper quoted unnamed "East European military sources" as saying the deals were signed recently with the countries.

Warming up ties

Fahd to visit Egypt

CAIRO, March 20, (AP): King Fahd of Saudi Arabia will begin a three-day official visit to Egypt this weekend, President Hosni Mubarak's ruling party newspaper reported in its today's editions.

The long-expected visit will begin on Saturday at the invitation of Mubarak, Mayo, the weekly mouthpiece of the National Democratic Party said without providing details.

There have been frequent press reports on the planned visit since the two countries re-established full diplomatic relations in November 1987.

Saudi Arabia, along with most Arab countries broke relations with Egypt after the late President Anwar Sadat signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia presently maintain warm relations and co-ordinate their Arab and foreign policies.

Both advocate a political settlement for the Arab-Israeli problem through negotiations within the framework of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

54 women protesters detained in Cyprus

NICOSIA, March 20, (Reuters): More than 3,000 women demonstrators stormed the Cyprus "green line" in protest against the 14-year division of the Mediterranean island and 54 of them were arrested.

Sunday's two pronged Greek-Cypriot assault was met by angry Turkish-Cypriot demonstrators shouting "go home."

The Greek-Cypriots were

joined by supporters from the United States, Europe and Australia. Among them was Margaret Papatheou, estranged wife of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

An eyewitness at Lymbia, where some 2,000 women stormed past a Turkish guard post on a steep hill southeast of the capital, said the Turkish-Cypriot

police "seemed to want to make arrests."

He said some of the women arrested were dragged away kicking and screaming. They had their hair pulled and received bruises.

At least four reporters and two American women were among the 54 arrested. They were released late last night.

The demonstration was the third in three years organised by the Women Walk Home group. Marchers said they were protesting against the island's division, which prevents some 200,000 Greek-Cypriot refugees returning to the homes in north Cyprus which they were forced to flee in 1974 when Turkey invaded.

The invasion followed a coup in Nicosia engineered by the

military junta then ruling Greece.

One demonstrator, arrested at Akhna where another 1,000 women crossed into an abandoned Greek-Cypriot village now under Turkish control, said "Turkish-Cypriot police women were very rough, and were pushing and kicking us. We were arrested as we were walking away."

215 rebels killed

Kabul claims control of battle

ISLAMABAD, March 20, (Reuters): Afghanistan said today 215 mujahedeen rebels had been killed in fighting around the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad in the last 24 hours, but a rebel official called on government forces to surrender.

The official Kabul Radio said seven civilians had died in rebel shelling and rocketing on Jalalabad and two other towns over the same period and a member of the Afghan parliament had been killed by a mine in the western city of Herat.

"The military forces killed 215 rebels and wounded 64 and are completely in control of the battle area," the radio said.

But in Islamabad, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, foreign minister in a Pakistan-based Afghan rebel government-in-exile, said yesterday the Soviet-backed Kabul government must surrender to avoid further bloodshed.

"If they surrender, they will get amnesty and we will forget all their past crimes," he told a news conference on return from an Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Jeddah.

"But if they cling to power, then they will be responsible for the bloodshed."

Intervention

The Jeddah meeting gave the rebel government Afghanistan's OIC seat, which had been vacant since the 1979 Soviet military intervention.

The Western-backed mujahedeen guerrillas launched their offensive on Jalalabad two weeks ago. They see the city as a possible base for their government.

Some rebel spokesmen had predicted that Jalalabad would fall to them in a few days. But Hekmatyar, who leads the Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla party, said the rebels wanted a gradual fall of government-held towns to avoid civilian casualties.

The Washington Post reported on Saturday that US Secretary of State James Baker was close to naming a special ambassador to the rebel Afghan government.

The Post said the move would be partly aimed at curbing the political influence of Pakistan, through which the United States has pumped more than \$1 billion in aid to the rebels since the early 1980s.

In Moscow, the Soviet general staff warned the Kremlin against large-scale intervention in Afghanistan in December 1979, arguing in vain for a more limited operation, a former top soldier said in an interview published yesterday.

Sudan refugees have no food

ADJUMANI, Uganda, March 20, (Agencies): More than 20,000 Sudanese refugees in northern Uganda are running short of food because poor security on the roads has delayed the arrival of a relief convoy.

"There is no food. People are starving," said Venusto Ogido, the chairman of Arinyapi refugee camp in northwestern Uganda, where 17,000 victims of Sudan's civil war have gathered over the past two weeks.

Most are from Nimule, a border town which fell to the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) on March 3.

The refugees are huddled in makeshift grass shelters along the banks of a stream, 10 miles (16 km) inside Uganda, surrounded by the few belongings they managed to salvage.



Fifteen-year-old Hambargul (left) and 13-year-old Rahimdad are among 350 men who are being held at Shagy, a training camp for Afghan Muslim rebels, after they deserted from the Afghan Army during fighting around Jalalabad. (Reuters wirephoto).

Afghan boys desert to rebels

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, March 20, (Reuters): Hambargul may be only a grubby 15-year-old but he has been forced into the Afghan Army, taught how to use a Kalashnikov assault rifle, seen men killed in battle and deserted to the mujahedeen.

He was among 360 conscripts who left their posts around the besieged eastern city of Jalalabad and gave themselves up to the rebels a week ago.

His 13-year-old companion Rahimdad described the scene: "The men just stopped fighting, held up their guns in the air and came out of their posts to join the mujahedeen because they knew the area was surrounded by the mujahedeen."

The deserters were being held 50 km (30 miles) inside Pakistan at a rebel training camp run by the Mahaz-i Milli-Islami, a member of a seven-party Muslim guerrilla alliance

fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

A rebel commander said the deserters, mostly teenagers, would not be punished.

"What we want from them is information about the government's situation, policy and also the fighting for Jalalabad," he said.

The two-week-old battle for the capital of Nangrahar province is the first real test of strength between the Western-backed guerrillas and President Najibullah's government since Soviet troops completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan on Feb 15.

Both sides have reported hundreds of dead and wounded.

The guerrillas, based in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar, last month formed a provisional government headed by moderate Sibtghatullah Mojaddidi which they want to base in Jalalabad.

The rebel government has been recognised

by only three countries — Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Sudan.

The guerrilla commander said the deserters being held at the camp, in the shadow of rugged mountains near the Afghan border, would be encouraged to join the mujahedeen.

He said the boys would be released, probably to join the three million people who have fled their country in the past 10 years to live in refugee camps in Pakistan.

Some deserters told reporters the authorities had ordered anyone who tried to escape across the lines to be killed.

Rahimdad said officers scared him with tales of how he would be harmed by the mujahedeen if he went over to their side.

It seemed that, partly for propaganda purposes and a desire to lure deserters to their cause, the rebels were providing them with food and tent accommodation.

'Negotiations serve Israel'

Hamas calls for Jihad

NICOSIA, March 20, (Reuters): The Islamic Palestinian group Hamas, which plays a major role in an uprising in Israel, called today for a holy war in apparent criticism of PLO peace moves.

"The only guarantee of liberation is through jihad (holy war)," Hamas said in a statement received in Nicosia.

"Negotiations and appeals to other states will only serve to give

the enemy the ability to be more prepared and more arrogant," it said.

The statement appeared to criticise calls for talks with Israel by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, who said in December he recognised Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

The statement also called for a general strike on March 30 to

mark Palestinian Land Day. It urged a day of fasting and a night of prayer on March 23 and a continuation of a boycott of Israeli products.

Israeli security forces killed seven Palestinians at the weekend in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At least 409 Palestinians and 16 Jews have died since the uprising began in December 1987.

Palestine: key issue of Mideast

GIZA, Egypt, March 20, (AP): Egyptians and Israelis, discussing their countries' relations after a decade of peace, agreed today that solving the Palestinian problem is the only way to foster true friendship between the former enemies.

An Israeli cabinet minister and two Egyptians, all major players in development of the peace treaty signed March 26, 1979, urged the Jewish state to recognise the PLO as a first step toward overall peace.

They and a group of students, journalists and others met in a round-table discussion organised by the BBC and taped for broadcast tomorrow. Five days before the anniversary of the first and only treaty between an Arab state and Israel.

"Let us make a difference between the two aspects of the programme. The first was peace between Egypt and Israel, the second was the solution of the Palestinian problem," said Butros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

"We have been successful in achieving the first. We have completely failed in achieving the second one."

Ghali was involved deeply in negotiations over the US-brokered Camp David accords, signed in 1978 and setting a framework for the treaty, and over the peace document itself.

Israel must talk to PLO

(Continued from Page 1)

to the PLO? Because ultimately talks are held with your enemies and not with your friends."

Jewish intellectuals from France said they too would urge Shamir to open talks with the PLO. But the head of the powerful US Jewish community, Seymour Reich, said the aim of the conference was to express support for Israel, not to recommend specific policies.

Peres himself suggested he would at least be willing to talk to PLO supporters in the West Bank and Gaza Strip if they proved they were nonviolent.

In another development the Palestinian ambassador to Riyadh said the PLO wants the level of talks with the United States upgraded so Arafat can take part.

Ambassador Rafik Al Natsheh reiterated the PLO position while denying a report saying Arafat would participate at the next round of the PLO-US dialogue slated for Wednesday in Tunisia.

"Yasser Arafat will not take part in the talks with the Americans at the level of ambassadors," said Al Natsheh in a statement to the Associated Press. "We are demanding that the United States upgrade the level of the talks so that Abu Ammar can take part."

To upgrade the talks would be to place them on a level "commensurate with the developments in the region," said Al Natsheh, who also expressed "strong displeasure ... at the slow

pace" of the dialogue to date.

He added: "We look forward to serious American-Palestinian talks through which we can reach a just settlement that guarantees the Palestinian people's rights."

The dialogue started formally on Dec 16 when Washington lifted a 13-year ban on dealing with the PLO after Arafat and the Palestine National Council made clear their acceptance of the state of Israel.

In Washington, a top State Department official said that the start of the dialogue between the US and the PLO "does not in any way imply US acceptance of an independent Palestinian state."

The acting Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East, Paul Hare said: "Our dialogue with the PLO is not an end in itself. We view the dialogue as one more step toward the beginning of direct negotiations among the parties in the region, which alone can lead to peace."

Referring to the US rejection of an independent Palestinian state, Hare emphasised: "The final status of the West Bank and Gaza must be determined in negotiations, not through unilateral acts by either side."

In the occupied territories, Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a 20-year-old Palestinian protester in the thigh, Arab reports said.

About 330,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were kept indoors by curfew restrictions imposed as merchants launched a three-day general strike to protest seven Palestinian fatalities in clashes with the Israelis over the weekend.

Bomb explosion

ANKARA, March 20, (UPI): A bomb exploded at the offices of the Emirates Airlines in Istanbul today, causing little damage and no loss of life, police said.

The blast occurred in the Harbiye area where the Emirates Airlines office is located. Police said there were few people around at the time of the explosion and no loss of life was reported.

Mahdi to hold talks

KHARTOUM, March 20, (KUNA): Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi who leads Sudan's largest political party, is due to hold a crucial meeting with Democratic Unionist Party's (DUP) leader Mohammed Othman Al Mirghani today to try and solve differences and put final touches on a new cabinet expected to be announced on Tuesday.

Sidki to visit Rabat

CAIRO, March 20, (KUNA): Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki will fly Tuesday to Rabat on an official four-day visit to Morocco, Radio Cairo reported today. The radio said Sidki will convey a message to Morocco's King Hassan from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Home set on fire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 20, (AP): Jewish militants who claimed to support anti-Arab leader Rabbi Meir Kahane set fire before dawn today to the front door of an outgoing mayor's home, Israel Radio reported. No one was injured in the attack, which was the third of its kind in the last five days.

Royal tour ends

NICOSIA, March 20, (Reuters): Britain's Prince Charles flew home last night from a four-nation tour of the Gulf during which he faced a security scare in Dubai. The Saudi Press Agency said that the Prince left Saudi Arabia after a three-day private visit that included talks with King Fahd. On the advice of the British government, the Prince decided not to play a polo match in Dubai.

Rocket attack

KHARTOUM, March 20, (KUNA): Six people were killed and unspecified number of others wounded in a rocket attack by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army, SPLA on Juba, capital of South Sudan last Saturday, a newspaper reported today. The independent Khartoum daily Al Watan quoting what it called a security source who arrived here from Juba yesterday, said that the attack had also inflicted unspecified damage to properties in the town.

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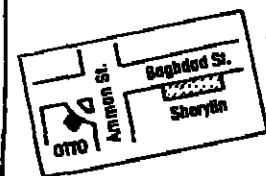
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British gang on rampage in Rushdie backlash

SHEFFIELD, England, March 20, (Reuters): A gang went on the rampage in a Muslim suburb of the northern English city of Sheffield yesterday in an apparent backlash against protests over Salman Rushdie's book The Satanic Verses.

Police said vandals in Darnall smashed windows of a mosque, sprayed paint on several cars and homes and daubed slogans demanding that Rushdie be left

in peace. No one was hurt in the rampage which caused thousands of pounds (dollars) worth of damage.

"In the context of the Rushdie affair, it is very alarming," said local Member of Parliament Pat Duffy, of the opposition Labour Party. A police spokesman said community race relations had been good before the incident.

Rushdie, an Indian-born British

writer, has outraged Muslims world-wide for what they view as blasphemy in his book. Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini ordered his death in February and Tehran has broken diplomatic ties with Britain.

Rushdie has been in hiding since the death threat, which was backed by some Muslims in Britain. Copies of his book have been burned publicly in the northern city of Bradford.

Ankara: Turkey has expressed its displeasure to Iran about the religious activities of an Iranian diplomat who allegedly distributed Khomeini's death order for Rushdie, a Turkish Foreign Ministry official said today.

Kuala Lumpur: The head of the National Association of Religious Scholars criticised Britain and the United States today for permitting the sale of The Satanic Verses. (UPI)

مكتبة

Rakowski in Kuwait

Amir to receive Polish Premier today

KUWAIT, March 20, (Reuters): The first Polish Prime Minister to visit Kuwait, Mieczyslaw Rakowski, arrived today for talks likely to focus on economic ties and possible Kuwaiti investment in Poland.

Rakowski arrived from Baghdad with a high-level economic delegation and is due to meet the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and the foreign, oil, and finance ministers during a three-day visit, Polish embassy officials said.

They said Rakowski would seek Kuwaiti financial help in a planned expansion of Gdansk refinery. Kuwait could market some of the oil products in nearby Scandinavia, where the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation owns hundreds of petrol stations, one official said.

Poland is gradually adopting free market policies and encouraging a private sector long overshadowed by the state. A recent law protects and offers incentives for foreign investment.

The head of the Kuwait Investment Authority, one of the world's biggest investors, recently said Kuwait was considering placing some of its surplus oil funds in East European states that were liberalising their economies.

Polish-Kuwaiti trade is small with Polish exports of goods and services to Kuwait last year amounting to mere \$21.4 million, embassy officials said. Political discussions will cover recent Middle East peace moves, Iran-Iraq peace talks and the situation in Lebanon, the officials said. Poland supports Arab demands for a Palestinian state and a Middle East peace conference under UN auspices.



Rakowski with Sheikh Saad upon his arrival and (below) a young girl greets the Polish Premier with flowers and a smile.



Poland has about a dozen military staff serving with UN peacekeeping forces along the border between Iran and Iraq, which ended eight years of fighting with a ceasefire last August.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, will head the reception party which also grouped Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh

Rakowski, who will be residing at Al Salam Palace, will meet tomorrow with HH the Amir.

Oil investments abroad to expand base: Ali

Kuwait to play competitive role in free market

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA): Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi said that Kuwait's oil exploration and investments abroad in addition to owning of petrol stations outside Kuwait, is for strategic purposes, which aim at expanding the Kuwaiti oil base and providing ways for partial sales of its oil products.

Sheikh Ali, in an interview with a local monthly, said that

Kuwait has developed its oil refineries to make their capacity reach 750,000 barrels per day to secure an international market for its products in spite of fluctuations in prices and the situation of the market.

Stability

He noted that "we do not want to be at the mercy of oil companies" that purchase crude or refined oil at reduced prices that

hurt market stability.

He explained that the presence of Kuwaiti oil products and ownership of petrol stations in Europe under the name of "Q8" enables Kuwait to play a competitive role in a free and open market.

He announced that Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) does not want to expand its "Q8" investments in the Arab market, noting that distributing

Kuwaiti petroleum products in Arab countries is very limited but this will not stop Kuwait from investing in any Arab country, the circumstances of which allow such investment.

Concessions

Sheikh Ali said that KPC has an oil concession in Egypt and has started production in "Amal" oil field in the Suez at the capacity of 7,000 BPD.

He noted that KPC also has oil concessions in Tunisia, but no oil was found in commercial quantities there and in Sudan. Due to the civil war in the south the operations are halted every now and then, he added.

Sheikh Ali said that KPC has concessions in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen and "we are negotiating with Yemen Arab Republic on means of co-operation (in the oil field)."

UNICEF-sponsored study

Concern over development of Arab children

ARAB concern over the development of Arab children is a recent issue as compared to other countries, particularly Western and socialist countries, according to a senior official.

Dr Hassan Al Ibrahim, chairman of the Kuwait Society for the Advancement of Arab Childhood, speaking at a symposium recently held at the Kuwait-based Arab Planning Institute said that at the beginning of the 1980s, the Arab League in co-operation with UNICEF empowered a team of experts to study a development strategy for Arab children.

The official added that the non-governmental Arab Council for Childhood

Development was established in 1987, and in turn urged the establishment of national councils in different Arab countries. There are about 90 million Arab children under 15 years of age who constitute 45 to 50 per cent of the total Arab population, as opposed to 23 per cent in industrial countries.

The political, economic and social dimensions of this high percentage adversely affects the stability of Arab communities, Ibrahim said.

Education

He added that only 16 children out of every thousand had kindergarten education. The future will witness eight million Arab children

having no room in the primary stage of education, he said. As an example he cited Egypt, where about 17 per cent of the children have no primary school education facilities.

Statistics in 1985 revealed that 160 children per thousand in some Arab countries died due to different diseases — some of which were curable.

Ibrahim called on Arab countries to go beyond traditional development — which mainly concentrates on the economy — and to address the issues of poverty, lack of accommodation, malnutrition, infant mortality, juvenile delinquency and other issues to Arab children.

Thailand minister arrives today

By Diane Diaz

Arab Times staff

A SENIOR official from Thailand arrives in Kuwait early this morning for talks with Kuwait's Oil Minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah.

Kola Dabbaransi, the Thai minister for energy, investment and tourism, will spend three days in Kuwait, during which he will convey a personal message from HE General Chatichai Choonhavan, prime minister of Thailand to HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

An official from the Thai embassy said the minister's visit comes in direct response to a personal invitation from Sheikh Ali. The embassy official said the two men met last year in Thailand and wanted to continue their "friendly relations" with a personal visit.

The embassy would not say whether specific issues involving oil or investments would be discussed. The embassy did say however that the Thai ambassador would host a private reception at his residence for the minister on Wednesday evening. Also invited will be local travel agents and tour operators, hotel and airline managers.

The Thai minister is also scheduled to visit two camps sites where he will meet with Thai nationals working in Kuwait.

Indian envoy

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy has said that H.E. Nagendra Nath Jha, ambassador of India met yesterday with Abdul Aziz Al Khodri, director of Asia and Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They discussed means to further strengthen co-operation between the two countries in addition to other matters of mutual interest.

KD8.743 million for 1989

Cost of cleaning services rises

COSTS of cleaning services in Kuwait amounted to KD8.5 million during 1988 and Kuwait Municipality has decided to augment this sum for the fiscal year 1989 to KD8.743,000, according to a Kuwaiti official.

This decision has been endorsed by the Kuwait Municipality Affairs Committee due to the increase in constructional expansion and increase of cleanliness activities, Essa Kandiri, the director of cleanliness and Road Works Department at Kuwait Municipality said.

He added that a study is being undertaken to amend the public cleanliness law No. 9/1987 to cover some loopholes. Officials are authorised to

refer violators of the cleanliness law to judicial authorities and can refuse to accept fines.

One of the amendments sought is to increase the fine for littering from KD5 to KD15. During the month of January, 387 violators signed pledges to observe the law. Last year, 3,606 violators were apprehended.

Tenders for collecting garbage pertain to the following areas: Mangaf, Abu Halifa, Fintas, Mahbula, Ugaila, Sabah Al Salem suburb, Sabhan, Umm Al Himan, Mina Abdullah, Shuaiba, Wafra, Zour and Nuwaiseeb. Work in these areas is expected to begin during the second half of this year, Kandiri said.

New MTSC charges system a success

SHEIKH Hamad Ali Al Sabah, head of External Relations for the Kuwait Mobile Telephone Systems Co. has announced that the new charges system introduced a few months ago has positively contributed to reducing the number of mobile telephone calls.

The official added that as the number of calls has dropped, the services have subsequently improved. He commented that the new charges system was introduced only after several experiments proved that the shortcomings were basically caused due to subscribers' misuse.

Last month, which was the first month during which the new charges were applied, the number of calls dropped by 30 per cent, which resulted in better

mobile telephone communications throughout the country.

The number of mobile telephone subscribers has risen to over 17,000 and the company is still offering more telephones for sale. There is also a plan to co-operate with Bahrain's mobile telephone system to enable subscribers to use their telephones in both countries.

Adequate Sheikh Hamad denied rumours that unused time allotted to the subscribers can be transferred to the next month. He said that each subscriber has 600 minutes, which is more than adequate for a month.

The company has started renting out mobile telephones as of the beginning of this month. Sets can be hired for a day, a week or a month, the official said.

Facelift for buildings

ALL owners of buildings are urged to remodel the exteriors of their buildings and to provide all required maintenance services with the time limit which has been set for these purposes, under Article 24 of Decision No.30 for 1985, Kuwait Municipality has stressed.

All owners of buildings should therefore check in with the Building Remodelling and Renovation Division at the Follow-Up and Control Department, during official working hours, in order to be briefed on what they should do during the three-month period before the deadline.

This announcement is addressed to owners of buildings located in the Capital working area A, which contains buildings looking out onto Fahd Al Salem and Ahmed Al Jaber streets, Hawalli working area A along Beirut and Tunis streets, and Salmiya working area A along Salem and Hamad Al Mubarak streets.

Salem meets Qaboos

MUSCAT, March 20, (KUNA): Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah met here today with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'eed of Oman at his residence in Salalah.

KISR establishes economic data bank

THE technical economy department at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) recently established an economic information and statistics bank related to Kuwait's economy, according to the department director, Dr Adel Ahmad Omar.

The official told KUNA that a final report on the new information bank has been completed, and that two booklets explain methods for using the economic information and dynamics of the bank's programmes.

The bank's information will be circulated among other researchers in co-ordination with the National Centre for Scientific and Technological Data at the institute.

Research produced within the past ten years is provided to government and private establishments in Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf and focuses on quantum analysis, economics, industrial engineering, applied sciences and scientific fields of control. The department actively participates in research undertaken at other institutes related to modern technology in fields such as fish farming, poultry, petrochemical production and feasibility studies. Omar said that the department's research programmes are utilised in preparing the government's five-year-plan 1984/85 and 1989/1990 by designing an economical model in addition to its participation in studying the Kuwaiti economic conditions.

Kuwait-Tunisia sign trade agreement

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA): Kuwait and Tunisia today concluded an agreement on technical, commercial and economic co-operation. The agreement, which was signed by Kuwaiti Finance Minister Jasssem Al Khorafi and Tunisian Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammed Al Habib Kaabashi, calls for hiking and diversifying trade exchange between the two countries and exempt industrial and agricultural products and natural resources

from customs fees and taxes. The 19-article agreement also calls for organising exhibitions and economic activities in both countries in order to grant more recognition to their products and exchange economic information and delegations. It also opts to enhance the various production sectors and co-operation in the fields of exchanging expertise and boosting tourism between the two countries.

Arab Women's Conference

Paper presented on adult alienation

By Yakub Razaque

Arab Times staff

THE concept of 'alienation' among adults in Kuwait in particular and in the Arab world in general is a complex subject comprised of a combination of social, psychological and political factors, according to a top Kuwaiti social researcher.

Presenting a paper entitled "Adult Alienation in Kuwait" during the 5th Regional Arab Women's Conference, Dr Jasssem Al Khandari, Director of Central Evaluation at Kuwait University, stated that the issue of alienation is a common and major problem in Arab society among both men and women.

"Alienation cannot be defined in simple terms. It is a contemporary problem based on a host of factors which includes our behaviour patterns and life-style. We cannot determine the exact causes of alienation. It is a permanent problem that we are faced with," commented Dr Khandari in an exclusive interview with the Arab Times.

Dr Khandari said that a recent study conducted by him showed that a large number of Arab adults suffer from alienation in

various forms. Cultural alienation is most inherent in the region, he added, citing eminent sociologist Melvin Seaman's "sixth dimension." The other dimensions include meaninglessness, normlessness, social alienation and self-estrangement.

"Generally in Arab society women tend to be more alienated than men, for various social and economic reasons, one of the reasons being that our culture is male oriented," explained Dr Khandari.

He said that no individual or element in particular should be blamed for the escalation of alienation in Arab society.

Dr Khandari stressed the importance of the family as the single most influential and stabilising factor in helping to alleviate the problem of alienation. "Although there are no easy solutions or cures for alienation, we must start from the family to analyse and solve this problem. After all, the family concept is the basic and the most important social unit in our lives."

Maids Speaking on the upbringing of Kuwaiti children, Dr Khandari highlighted the role of the 'maid' in Kuwaiti society. He said the

maid has become an indispensable part of the average Kuwaiti household and her participation in the family life, particularly raising children has considerable effects in the long-term functioning of the family.

According to Dr Khandari, a 1985 study conducted by Kuwait's Ministry of Education showed that 80 per cent of the children in Kuwait were reported to feel closer to their maids than their mothers.

"This is quite alarming and disturbing. I feel things like this lead to the beginning of alienation in our society", said Khandari.

Initiative He urged parents, particularly mothers, to take the initiative and play a more active role in the upbringing and education of their children. He said children must be encouraged to participate in family discussions in order to make them feel responsible and important in the family.

He said the fact that nearly all maids are expatriates presents a negative influence in the social and psychological upbringing of Kuwaiti children, thereby alienating them from their own culture and people.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sheikh Saad diwan

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA): His Highness the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Dhari Abdullah Al Othman, State Minister for Municipality Affairs Mohammed Abdul Mohsen Al Rifai and Board Chairman and Director-General of the Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij.

HH also received Housing Supreme Council member Khaled Al Issa Al Saleh and the chairman and the board's members of the Kuwaiti Farmers Union.

Sheikh Sabah

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber today received US Ambassador to Kuwait Wilson Nathaniel Howell.

The meeting focussed on bilateral relations, the outcome of contacts by the Six-man Arab Committee on Lebanon and the latest developments in the region.

Sheikh Sabah also received Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Abdullah Al Othman and head of the Central Tenders Committee Sheikh Ali Al Jassar.

Shamlian leaves

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA): Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlian today left the country for an official visit to Canada where he will familiarise himself with the Canadian higher education system.

Shamlian will stop over during the visit in London and Washington to meet Kuwaiti students studying in the United Kingdom and the US.

Corrigendum

THE Arab Times would like to clarify the following apropos "National information network proposed", page 5, Monday, March 20.

The National Computer and Microfilm Centre is conducting a study to develop recovery plans for users in the government sector which ensures the continuity of services in case of any disaster. This will be achieved in co-ordination with other main computer centres in Kuwait as alternate sites.

The computer service provided to the government sector was 3668 hours of central processing time at an availability rate of 98.99% which is considered to be among the highest rates world-wide.

TV films on environmental awareness

A STUDY on the feasibility of producing television films to raise public environmental awareness is reportedly nearing completion, according to an official source at the Environmental Protection Council.

The council's board is expected to issue its decision regarding the proposed production of films at the conclusion of its general assembly meeting on March 28 during which it will discuss the financial and administrative reports submitted.

The source, quoted by a local daily, said that

special films of 10-minute duration would be made for youngsters to initiate them into environmental care techniques.

Films designed for adults would vary in length from 20 to 30 minutes, the source added, saying that preliminary films will be produced to establish the project's success potentials.

The source said the first production state will involve twelve experimental films to be followed by 30 more varying in length and designed for both youngsters and adults.

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OPPOSITION always inflames the enthusiast, never converts him — Johann Friedrich Schiller, German writer (1759-1805).

Bush's presidency Days wasted

By Merrill Hartson

WASHINGTON, (AP): Two months into his presidency, George Bush is struggling with perceptions that he has chosen a style of governance that is too cautious and constrained by worry about policy stumbles.

In recent speeches and exchanges with reporters, Bush has tried to drive away that image.

He chafed at suggestions by critics that his go-slow strategy on East-West relations gives Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev the upper hand in world public opinion, saying "I am not going to be pushed into speedy action because Mr Gorbachev gives a compelling speech at the United Nations."

He undertook an almost painstaking explanation of why he ordered time-consuming reviews of both foreign and defence strategy, saying: "We've got to map a strategy."

But administration officials acknowledge that Bush's pre-inaugural decision to conduct such reassessments contributed to an image problem once he settled into office.

Bush said Thursday that he moved quickly to defuse such "ticking time bombs" as the United States' endangered savings and loan industry. But he also said getting the nation ready for the 1990s and beyond is "what my (long-term) agenda is all about."

Speaking in this same context earlier in the week, he told insurance executives: "I want to be a president who is remembered for preparing our country for the next century."

The administration has been beset in recent weeks with a spate of news reports, often quoting both Democratic and Republican political experts, saying Bush has adopted a too-cautious leadership style.

Because of this, the notion went, he missed the opportunity history has afforded new presidents get to establish an agenda in their first 100 days in the White House.

Bush confronted such talk during a question-and-answer session with reporters on March 14 in which he denied the administration was "adrift". The President also argued that he had moved as quickly as Ronald Reagan, in 1981, to choose people for top-level jobs.

What followed was an unmistakable White House campaign to blunt any continuing talk of an aimless presidency.

"I'm particularly amused by the notion that the Bush administration must do all kinds of things in our first hundred days," Vice-President Dan Quayle told the National Press Club. "We're succeeding an administration of our own party at a time when the country is in good shape...."

"The notion of the '100 days' came in with Franklin Roosevelt, who took over a country in the depths of a depression," he said. James David Barber, a presidential scholar at Duke University, disagreed.

When Bush talks about vision, he asked, "Does that mean anything? When he says something, hang loose until he does it. Drug war? Where is it? Education president? When?"

Thomas Edmonds, a Republican political consultant, said Bush "has got to satisfy the public's need to see accomplishments taking place."

"It's not enough to be just a statesman. You have to be a politician as well," he said. Edmonds noted that Reagan successfully used television frequently to "visually demonstrate forward motion" — even if little was being done.

Stephen Sudbert, a special assistant to Bush who helps plan the President's activities and concerns himself with the President's image, said: "I think the 60-day report card is probably going to be pretty tough. But I think the 365-day report card is going to be a better barometer."

White House officials say Bush has moved forthrightly with his domestic policy agenda, noting that in addition to proposing a rescue plan for the troubled S and Ls, he has continued to seek a budget compromise with Congress and sent lawmakers his legislative proposals on such issues as child care and minimum wage.

Frank Greer, a Democratic consultant, said Bush had "a good inaugural" and had set a constructive tone in his statements about seeking bipartisan consensus on major issues.

But he said the Bush White House "wasted tremendous political capital" on the enervating battle to win confirmation of former Sen John Tower as secretary of defence.

"History has shown that the first 100 days will prove the tone and the effectiveness of a new administration, and he's wasted two-thirds of it," Greer said. "And I think what you're headed for is a weak presidency."

Press review

Israeli greed has no limits

KUWAIT, March 20. (KUNA): The Kuwait daily Al Rai Al Aam supported Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statement in which he said world peace is not impossible, noting that it is a call to superpowers to stop "feeding and fomenting conflicts."

The paper affirmed that Mubarak is "honest with himself, his people and his nation," adding that when he calls for permanent and just peace Mubarak "means Israel and the United States, because peace is not a slogan but it is a sacrifice."

The paper wondered how could peace prevail while Israel indulges in all kinds of destructive practices.

The daily affirmed that the heroic uprising "proves every day and every hour that peoples' rights do not die, but Israel does not want to understand and it imagines that military and economic aid from the US could buy peace and provide it with security."

The newspaper asserted that just peace is the only way for existence but Israel does not want it, noting that "Israeli greed has no limits."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1500 — French garrison in Novara, Italy, capitulates to forces of Ludovico Sforza.

1801 — French forces are defeated at Alexandria, Egypt, by British under Ralph Abercromby.

1803 — French civil code — the code Napoleon — is completed.

1829 — Earthquake in Spain kills 6,000.

1831 — Austrian troops enter Italy to put down revolt.

1848 — Denmark's Frederick VII announces decision to incorporate Schleswig.

1884 — France legalises trade unions.

1905 — Britain and Persia sign agreement to counter Russian designs in Near East.

1919 — Soviet Republic is proclaimed.

1939 — Germany annexes Memel from Lithuania.

1953 — The Sudan achieves self-government.

1960 — Pan-African demonstration against pass laws in South Africa leads to shooting of 57 Africans at Sharpeville, and state of emergency is declared.

1975 — Military government in Ethiopia abolishes royal position of emperor.

1977 — India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi resigns after losing her seat in parliamentary elections.

1988 — Jordan's King Hussein calls on Muslim world to support Palestinian unrest in Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Relief planes bring hope for thousands

Race against death in south Sudan

By Hamza Hendawi

AL MUGLAD, Sudan, (Reuters): For thousands facing starvation in famine-hit south Sudan, hope comes each day with a faint speck in northern skies.

By the time the speck turns into the familiar outline of a four-engined De Havilland Dash 7 or one of the smaller twin Otter aircraft, the people of Aweil know they will live to see another.

Succour from the north is carried by a tiny squadron of relief planes flying a daily race against death, hopping from town to town above scorched bushland too dangerous to travel by road.

An estimated 250,000 people starved to death last year in south Sudan, wracked by civil war, drought and famine.

UN officials say another 100,000 may die from hunger this year unless food reaches them before the onset of the May-October rainy season.

In only 15 minutes, the Dash lands at Aweil, sacks of sorghum are unloaded and it takes off for the return flight to Al Muglad, 270 km (170 miles) away.

The plane, using an airstrip at Al Muglad belonging to the US oil company Chevron, shuttles to Aweil from dawn to dusk without shutting off its engines. Maintenance is done at night.

The operation is part of what the United Nations calls a race against time to stop hunger killing more people in the south, where rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have been fighting the government since 1983.

Stung by the magnitude of the



A starving Sudanese mother and her child waiting for food to be delivered.

1988 famine, the UN has produced an ambitious relief plan costing \$132 million and involving 132,000 tonnes of food and other supplies.

But it says it can be implemented, even in part, only if the Army and the SPLA agree to a one-month truce in April.

The SPLA, which says it is

fighting to end what it regards as the rule of Muslim minority in Khartoum over the animist and Christian south, says it wants to study the truce proposal before

making a decision.

Relief officials fear a proper truce may never come.

Western diplomats said the SPLA held the initiative in the

bush war and was suspicious of government motives in wanting a truce.

Bryan Wannop, the UN secretary-general's representative in Sudan for emergency operations, said that "corridors of tranquillity were a possibility."

"We need SPLA blessing, but it is not entirely dependent on the SPLA," Wannop said of the proposed relief plan.

Diplomats and relief officials said the current food airlifts alone could not prevent a re-run of last year's tragedy.

But the operations to Aweil and the besieged town of Juba and an airlift by the International Committee of the Red Cross to eight government or rebel-held towns may be used to pioneer larger relief efforts.

"It is operations like these, carried out with little publicity and no fanfare, that we might end up with at the end of the day," said one official.

The combined effects of fighting and famine forced at least three million southerners last year to flee their homes to northern Sudan and neighbouring Ethiopia and Uganda. Thousands died on the way.

Already hundreds of southerners are arriving every day in the towns Al Muglad and Aweil close to the southern Bahr Al Ghazal region.

Officials are considering other ways of sending in supplies, with river barges, trains and more aircraft among options.

But even if a period of tranquillity comes, armed outlaws, mined roads and the sheer scale of operations make the relief of south Sudan a daunting task.

Immediate breakthrough is not expected

US-PLO talks enter new stage

By Carol Giacomo

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States enters a new stage of talks with the PLO this week after offering concessions to the Arab point of view on Middle East peace.

First, Secretary of State James Baker has embarked upon a strategy that some analysts perceive as giving the PLO and Israel more or less parallel status.

Second, Baker has admitted Israel may someday have to negotiate peace with its nemesis the PLO, a statement that five months ago would have been unthinkable from an American official.

"He certainly threw a stone in the water," said Middle East expert Robert Hunter of Baker's comment on potential PLO-Israeli talks and its unpredictable rippling effect.

"If I was the PLO, I'd read that very positively," he said.

The meeting on Wednesday in Tunis is the second "substantive" one since the United States and the PLO resumed their dialogue last December after a 13-year break.

Washington had barred contacts until PLO chairman Yasser Arafat met US conditions to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel's right to exist.

There have been other US-PLO talks since the first meeting but all focused on American complaints about PLO raids against Israel, not on the larger regional

peace questions.

That dialogue begins on Wednesday when Washington is expected to ask the PLO to take steps — like halting violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip — to help improve the regional climate so Israeli-Palestinian negotiations can eventually occur.

"It's important for those talks to be useful to both sides," a senior State Department official said.

Particularly after the visit to Washington last week by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, "it's important for the PLO to know exactly what the US position is," the official said.

As with Arens' visit, US officials and private analysts are not expecting an immediate breakthrough at the Tunis talks. "This is a long-term process," the official said.

Arens' trip was a reconnaissance mission ahead of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's arrival here next month. It marked the start of Baker's foray as secretary of state into the diplomatic morass of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Like the PLO, Israel was urged to devise proposals for reducing tensions in the occupied territories, where a Palestinian uprising is now in its 15th month.

President Bush twice appealed for Shamir to bring "new ideas" when he comes here in April — an emphasis that seemed to pique Arens. US and Israeli

sources said the foreign minister left angry because of Baker's reference to eventual PLO-Israeli talks, which Israel rejects.

Moreover, Arens gave no hint that his right-wing government would heed US calls for tension-reducing measures.

There was no apparent arm-twisting but the US message to its close ally was clear — appropriately so, several experts said.

Baker, considered a pragmatist, and Bush "have set the stage for a long, constructive dialogue, not a confrontation with Israel," said Fred Axelgard, of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"If there is a change in Israel's position, it will come about through persuasion, not bullying," he said.

Baker has eschewed the approach of his predecessor George Shultz, who in his last year in office advanced a detailed peace plan with specific dates for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

This caused the two sides to move farther apart, not closer, and the Shultz initiative failed.

An Arab diplomat who asked not to be identified said Bush and Baker are luckier than Shultz because they have inherited a more auspicious climate that should make success easier.

In particular, he said, the US and PLO are now talking, the PLO seems more interested in a political solution than ever before and the Soviet Union has expressed increasing interest in being helpful in

facilitating regional peace.

Convinced the two main players are not yet ready to talk directly, however, Baker has taken a two-pronged approach that seeks to reshape the political environment between Israel and the Palestinians.

First, he is encouraging them to take steps that would prove to each other they are serious about peace and credible partners in a dialogue.

Second, there would be direct discussions on a final settlement.

The blueprint, for this strategy, was developed last year by a study group sponsored by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy chaired by Lawrence Eagleburger, now deputy secretary of state.

Another prominent group member was Dennis Ross, Baker's director of policy planning and a leader in shaping the new US approach to Middle East peace.

One obvious question is how long Baker is willing to devote time and energy to this intractable problem. Israel, especially, may try to resist participation, hoping Baker gets distracted by other pressing issues.

"I don't get the sense certainly that the secretary has put any time limit on this," a top Baker aide said.

"I don't see how one, in a fit of impatience, could say that's all I'm going to do in that region," he said, adding: "I don't even see how that could ever be an option."



Baker, policy

Making friends is quite easy in a Vietnamese park

By Chris Peterson

HO CHI MINH CITY, (Reuters): A walk around the shady park in front of the former South Vietnamese presidential palace in Ho Chi Minh City provides a dozen new friends in as many minutes.

"Hello, my name is Thanh, where are you from? Do you speak English? Can I talk to you? says a 40-year-old man in slacks, sandals, a sports shirt and a faded American baseball cap bearing the legend "The Dodgers."

Thanh, and dozens like him, gather every morning in the park alongside Han Thuyen Street to pick up scraps of information about the chances of emigrating to the United States and progress of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' orderly departure programme.

Any Western visitor, be it an aid worker, journalist or an US Vietnam veteran making a sentimental return, is immediately surrounded by a group, all with stories to tell.

Thanh's story, which he tells with a rehearsed precision, has a depressingly familiar ring to it for anyone who has spent time in Vietnam.

A fluent speaker of English, he talks with a shy charm, eager to be understood without being pushy.

"I was a captain in the South Vietnamese Army. I worked a lot with the US Marines in Da Nang. I have applied to go to the United States under the orderly departure programme because there is nothing for me here, no work. I spent five years in a re-education camp, now I come here every morning like many other of my former colleagues, to see what we can find out," Thanh said.

Until the end of 1988, 200,000 people are estimated to have left Vietnam under the orderly departure programme since its inception in 1979.

According to a senior Vietnamese immigration official, 22,000 people left under the programme in 1988 and that figure is expected to double this year.

But there still remains a backlog of

70,000 people who have been given clearance to emigrate to all countries, but who are waiting for flights.

The Vietnamese official said he estimated that there were 50,000 to 60,000 former Army officers and officials of the former South Vietnamese regime who were eligible to go to the United States under a specially agreed section of the ODP.

"So far the departure rate for that programme is running at about 8,500 a year, but we would like 40,000 to go. We have suggested that the United States send ships to accommodate them, but they have rejected the idea," the official said.

So far Thanh and his colleagues, the wait goes on, with little information trickling through other than brief letters of acknowledgement from US officials in

Thailand or requests for further papers and information.

These letters, many of them several years old, are treasured and tendered to the visitor as if they were a magic pass to another world.

Anh, a wizened little man in his 60s who said he had been an interpreter for the US Navy in the Mekong delta region, proudly showed a letter dated April last year that showed his application had been acknowledged by the orderly departure programme: section of the US embassy in Bangkok.

"It is such a long time, and it goes so slowly," he said.

The presence of these men in Ho Chi Minh City, formerly Saigon until North Vietnamese troops defeated the former South Vietnamese regime in 1975, seems like an anachronism.

Witness McFarlane making U-turns

By Deborah Zabarenko

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The judge, the prosecutors, defence lawyers and even the courtroom artists at Oliver North's Iran-Contra trial have had a hard time figuring out star witness Robert McFarlane.

In five days on the stand as a leading prosecution witness this past week, McFarlane, North's former boss on the National Security Council (NSC), contradicted himself so often that prosecutors decided he was helping the defence case more than theirs and tried to make him out to be a liar.

The defence, which might be expected to fear revelations from North's former superior, got a boost when McFarlane volunteered that he and not North was to blame for some key aspects of the Iran-Contra scandal.

North, a key NSC aide when Ronald

Reagan was President, is accused of 12 criminal charges related to secret sales of US arms to Iran and the diversion of profits to Nicaragua's Contra rebels.

A keystone of his defence is that he was carrying out the orders of superiors, including Reagan. The prosecution had expected McFarlane to undercut that argument.

Judge Gerhard Gesell became so frustrated by McFarlane's meandering answers that he often broke in to question the witness himself.

And artists sketching trial scenes for television news complained that the 51-year-old ex-Marine colonel is tough to draw because no feature on his dour face stands out.

Part of the problem is the way McFarlane talks.

Asked by the judge if he had sent a

particular White House memorandum under discussion, the witness replied: "I don't believe that's what's being asked. And that's my question. Did I send it? I don't remember. I accept that I may have. The memo indicates that I did. I simply don't remember. But clearly I got the memo, I believe."

Asked about his own earlier guilty plea to four counts of lying to Congress, McFarlane said: "I felt quite passionately about the fact that I had not wilfully lied to people. It is quite clear that I withheld information."

McFarlane is alone among the Iran-Contra defendants in expressing at least some contrition for his role in the scandal. He was recently sentenced at his own trial to two years probation, \$20,000 in fines and 200 hours of community service as part of a deal that set him up to help

North's prosecutors.

He attempted suicide in February 1987 and said later that he felt he had let the then President Reagan down.

His elliptical speaking style is familiar to those who saw the televised Iran-Contra hearings in Congress in 1987.

The star of those hearings was North, who testified in his medal-studded Marine officer's uniform — and expressed patriotic pride in all he had done to help support the Contras during a ban on US aid. But he spoke under a grant of immunity from prosecution and no finding in his trial can be based upon his congressional testimony.

North, who has since retired from the Marines and now wears sober civilian suits, faced front and sat ramrod-straight during McFarlane's often rambling testimony.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Gulf urged to entrust greater portion of reserves to Arab banks

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

A LEADING Kuwaiti banker has urged the Gulf states to entrust a greater portion of state reserves management to the Arab banks, instead of relying heavily on the services of long-established overseas institutions.

Ibrahim Dabdoub, the general manager of the National Bank of Kuwait, said regional governments and public sector entities have shown little confidence in the Arab banks' ability to manage the public sector reserves.

"Out of approved \$200 billion of Arab public and private funds presently managed by banks, I can venture to say that no more than \$10 billion is managed by Arab banks," Dabdoub told the Union of Arab Banks conference in Madrid last week.

According to the paper which he presented at the conference, the Arab banks, "which have achieved some degree of parity of investment performance with leading investment houses," deserve a larger role in the management of state reserves.

Speaking on the strategy of Arab banking in the 1990's, Dabdoub launched a back-to-basics call urging Arab bankers to "rediscover our roots" and develop the business emanating from domestic retail clients. He said that during the 1980s, which witnessed a remarkable growth in product range and corporate aspirations, commercial banks seem to have lost sight of the natural base of their business — the core of loyal domestic retail clients.

High net-worth individual customers, who in the Gulf states constitute a higher proportion of overall retail customer base than in any other of the world's regions, remain the backbone of commercial

banks' business, he said.

He urged the Arab banks to maximise the potential of that 20 per cent of their customer base which generates 80 per cent of their profits.

Dabdoub said that in the next decade the Arab banks will operate in an increasingly hostile global arena dominated by large banks. The Arab banking scene will reflect developments in international markets. The large banks will tend to become larger and will continue to draw strength in part from selective acquisition of the franchise of their smaller competitors.

Positions

Top-tier banks will continue to operate from positions of greater strength while the rest, unable to exercise significant influence, will be reactive in their behaviour, Dabdoub said.

Oil price levels will have a major impact

on Arab financial institutions in the 1990s.

Despite predictions that oil prices will be steady or will even increase by 1993, Dabdoub advised banks to be prepared to face weak energy price levels.

"It is better to be faced with the challenge of accelerating rates of growth than of rapid adjustment to declining rates of growth," he said.

He predicted the growth of private sector and reduced public ownership in the 1990s. Declining oil revenues will force the regional governments to divest themselves of their historically all-embracing roles within their economies, he said.

There will be a greater drive toward privatisation and fewer public sector subsidies. This trend is already in progress, Dabdoub said, adding that according to latest estimates the private sector in the Gulf states controls more than \$150 billion worth of foreign assets.

Plan to cancel ceiling

Stock exchange to monitor suspicious deals, prices

KUWAIT, March 20, (KUNA):

The Kuwait Stock Exchange has decided to cancel the minimum and maximum levels of share prices traded in the bourse, with immediate effect, Industry and Commerce Minister Faisal Abdul Razak Al Khaled said after chairing a meeting for the committee today.

The minister told reporters that the committee decided on the cancellation of that ceiling after reviewing issues of concern to the share dealers and a report by a subcommittee assigned to study the trading system and ways of developing it.

Al Khaled said that the stock market's administration was given the authority to intervene and monitor "suspicious deals and prices."

Co-operation

The minister also revealed that the broker's limit of operating within 250,000 shares per deal has also been lifted and brokers can now buy or sell any quantity requested by the dealers.

The ministry, in co-operation with the Central Bank, recently concluded a draft law on establishment of investment and real estate funds in the bourse, he said, adding that the draft law will be tabled with the cabinet in the coming two weeks.

He hoped that following ratification of the law, the system of deferred payment would be settled, noting that it needs revision.

Bangladesh banker for Kuwait

A BANGLADESHI banker, Dr A.M.A. Rahim will arrive in Kuwait today on a short visit.

Dr Rahim is the senior executive vice-president of Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Ltd., Dhaka.

Rahim joined the government service in the erstwhile CSE cadre and held various important positions. He also held the position of managing director, Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Ltd., has recently signed an agreement with The City International Exchange Co. W.L.L., Kuwait, whereby the bank will honour drawings of the company from Kuwait to all over Bangladesh.

Proposals still under discussion

Saudis and Kuwait may prop up oil price

LONDON, March 20, (KUNA):

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait are considering steps to underpin the price of Middle Eastern crude oils, following concern among Gulf exporters over the failure of their prices to keep pace with those of North Sea and American producers, according to a report here today.

April futures contracts for West Texas Intermediate, the US benchmark crude broke through \$20 a barrel for the first time since October 1987 last Friday, the Financial Times noted.

However, Dubai crude, the benchmark Middle Eastern crude, was \$4 a barrel cheaper, roughly double the usual price differential.

The Financial Times maintained that Kuwait is understood to have discussed with Saudi Arabia a proposal that would "set a floor" on the differential

between Dubai crude and the North Sea's benchmark, Brent crude, of about \$1.80 compared with a current differential of about \$3.

The floor would be used to price other Middle Eastern crudes when Dubai crude slips far below Brent prices, it added.

Although new pricing formulae for April sales of Middle Eastern crudes were not introduced earlier this month as some traders expected, the proposals are understood to be still under discussion.

In addition, the North Sea crudes are light requiring less refining to produce products such as petrol and diesel.

The price of crude oil touched 15-month highs today in Europe but business was subdued, oil traders said.

Brent blend from Britain's North Sea, the most widely

traded internationally, traded at \$18 a barrel for May delivery, the first time the most active forward month has sold at that level since early December 1987.

"The steam is still there, there is lots of strength in the market," one European trader said.

Meanwhile, major Japanese companies, which import oil in spot deals, have agreed on Kuwait's and other countries' request to increase their oil prices, Japanese Nihon Keizai newspaper reported today.

The paper noted that crude oil prices are increasing world-wide and are expected to increase more following Japan's acceptance on the increase of prices based on spot deals.

Iran also intends to increase prices of its crude exported to Japan by \$0.4 per barrel during the period between April and June.

Brady plays down inflation threat

"US must cut budget deficit"

WASHINGTON, March 20, (Reuters): Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady played down the sharp rise in US wholesale prices in February, saying some other economic indicators had shown softness recently.

"Some are up, some are down... the balance is in the middle right now," Brady said in a television interview.

Brady noted that retail sales and the operating rate of American manufacturing industries had both declined in February.

"I'm very optimistic right now," he said about inflation.

Recent reports have also shown declines in imports and industrial output, further indicating a slowing economy.

Asked whether the rise in February wholesale inflation, reported by the government on Friday, would prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates, Brady described Fed chair-

man Alan Greenspan as very competent and said: "I have great confidence in him. He has to do what he has to do."

Brady said the administration must work to reduce the federal budget deficit.

Wall Street share prices fell sharply on Friday after the poor inflation figures, but Brady said he was not worried.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed the week with a 10-point gain despite the Friday tumble, he noted.

The compromise followed a US demand that sectoral loans be allocated to economic sectors rather than the IADB's traditional activity in the project lending — should be made conditional on a lender already having IMF and World Bank programmes in place.

"There would be no implied subordination of the IADB to the World Bank because the two institutions have always seen involved in the same field of medium to long-term development loans," Felix Camarasa of Argentina, alternate executive director of the World Bank, told Reuters.

Negotiators near pact on Latin bank dispute

AMSTERDAM, March 20, (Reuters):

US and Latin American officials today worked to ratify a draft compromise on Inter-American Development Bank lending policy which could break a deadlock over a multi-billion dollar IADB capital increase.

Finance ministers or senior officials from five countries — the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela — reached the compromise early today.

The breakthrough could allow a formal agreement to be announced during the IADB's three-day annual meeting which began in Amsterdam today.

IADB president Enrique Iglesias told the meeting's opening ceremony that the negotiations which started here last Thursday appeared to have broken the deadlock on bank funds.

Agreements

"This will mean the end of a long period of disagreement which I hope will be overcome with a historic agreement here in Amsterdam," he said.

Under the compromise, the IADB would be able to devote 25 per cent of a \$22.5 billion, four-year lending programme to fast-disbursing sectoral development loans, in co-financing operations with the World Bank. Agreement would clear the way for a \$26.43 billion capital increase.

"I think this is a very imaginative solution," said Mexico's Under-Secretary for International Affairs, Angel Gurria.

Gurria made his comment before US officials and delegates from six Latin American countries met to try to work out a final version that could be ratified by IADB governors at a meeting which officials hoped would be held later today.

The compromise followed a US demand that sectoral loans be allocated to economic sectors rather than the IADB's traditional activity in the project lending — should be made conditional on a lender already having IMF and World Bank programmes in place.

"There would be no implied subordination of the IADB to the World Bank because the two institutions have always seen involved in the same field of medium to long-term development loans," Felix Camarasa of Argentina, alternate executive director of the World Bank, told Reuters.



A Tokyo share trader flashes a desperate hand signal to fellow brokers at the Tokyo Stock Exchange yesterday as stocks closed with the biggest one-day drop this year following a dive on Wall Street on Friday. Shares plunged 366.21 points to close at 31,654.80. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asian stock markets plunge

Dollar dips and gold firm

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters):

The dollar dipped today after the US and Canadian central banks intervened in the open market to check its advance, while shares were generally lower after Wall Street's fall on Friday.

Gold and oil prices stayed firm, dealers said.

The rate of inflation in the United States continued to capitate world financial markets.

Investors

After last Friday's producer price index showed inflation was tightening its grip on the world's largest economy, market attention has shifted to the US consumer price index figures, due out tomorrow.

"If we get more signs that US inflation is on the way up, then the pressure is going to be on for tighter money," said a currency trader at a US finance house in London.

Currency investors are buying dollars in the hope official US interest rates may be raised to cool inflation, but the same prospect has dented shares, which do not pay interest.

"Friday's high inflation figure from the US makes a near-term tightening by the Federal Reserve (central bank) more likely and that could ultimately mean higher rates here... why buy equities if that is going to happen?" a London share dealer asked.

Dealers said demand for the dollar was strong in quiet trading ahead of the consumer price figures.

They said the US and Canadian Central Bank authorities intervened in the open market to sell dollars for West German marks as the dollar approached 1.88 marks.

Asian stock markets tumbled today in the wake of Friday's US share price plunge, but analysts say any resemblance to the crash of 1987 is purely coincidental.

Tokyo, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Sydney all ended lower today. Seoul was the lone gainer.

The root of the fall was mostly traced to Wall Street, which had its sharpest one-day fall since April 14, 1988 on Friday. A surge in US February producer prices to almost double expectations revived fears of inflation and higher interest rates.

But Japanese analysts shrugged off fears that another stock market crash was under way.

"It's not even something I'd consider," said Ross Rowbury, a broker at Sanyo Securities. "I don't think financial markets would let things get that bad."

Governments urged to invest in Arab world

[AIGC boosts trade]

DUBAI, March 20, (OPECNA): A leading Arab economist urged Arab governments yesterday to direct their investments inside the Arab world as a safety measure and also to help efforts aimed at economic integration.

The statement was made by Abdel Karim Al Mudarres, secretary general and executive director of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce.

"The volume of Arab investments in Britain is too big and it is essential that this Arab capital returns home — to the Arab world," Al Mudarres said at the end of a two-day meeting here yesterday.

The meeting was attended by 15 Arab members of the chamber and was held to discuss the best means of protecting Arab interests in Britain following a draft law currently under discussion imposing equal taxes on British nationals and foreigners.

Al Mudarres said the Arab delegates discussed a Euro-Arab arbitration system to replace the one applied by the International Chamber of Commerce, which he accused of being biased and against Arab investors.

He said the Euro-Arab Chamber would seek support from European chambers of commerce and industry to enable the system to work.

Al Mudarres also praised the recent creation of two regional Arab economic groupings and expressed the hope the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) and the Arab Maghreb Union would become the nucleus of a unified Arab bloc.

He pointed out that the 12-member European Economic Community was working to become a union by the year 1992 and that European officials were seeking the views of the chamber on the potential impact of this development on relations between European and Arab countries.

Meanwhile, a pan-Arab body that guarantees inter-Arab trade and investment said today it increased the value of its coverage last year by more than 50 per cent.

The Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation said in a statement it guaranteed export and investment contracts between Arab countries worth \$239 million compared with \$156 million in 1987.

EEC, EFTA to step up ties

BRUSSELS, Belgium, March 20, (AP): The European Economic Community and the European Free Trade Association agreed today to step up co-operation but issued no blueprint on how to go about it.

The 12 EEC foreign ministers and their six EFTA counterparts said in a brief communique following a meeting that they discussed more co-operation in such areas as free movement of goods, services, capital and persons, as well as research, technology, education, environment, social policy and transportation.

Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez, the meeting's chairman, said the session had provided a "political impulse to allow (the EEC and EFTA) to explore future paths."

In their statement, the ministers said they discussed a "more structured" EEC-EFTA partnership which the EFTA government leaders requested at their Oslo summit last week.

But no decision was announced except that the two sides would meet again later this year.

The six EFTA members enjoy tariff-free trade throughout the area in industrial but not agricultural goods.

The EEC is an association of 12 countries formed to effect a closer economic union, especially by mutual tariff concessions.

The EEC and the EFTA nations — Norway, Iceland, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland — have strong trade links, and customs duties on industrial goods traded between the two blocs were abolished in 1984.

The agreement with the IMF commits the government to reducing its budget deficit through more efficient tax collection, liberalising import regulations and selling state-controlled companies.

Jayne said the agreement would pave the way for about \$1.3 billion in new loans. But critics say the government's annual growth target of six per cent is unrealistic and that the programme will force new taxes and fuel inflation.

Manila signs IMF letter of intent

MANILA, Philippines, March 20, (AP): The Philippine government today signed a letter of intent with the International Monetary Fund, committing itself to reform in return for possible new loans to continue its economic revival.

Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme told reporters he and Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez signed the letter with President Corason Aquino's approval and forwarded to the IMF.

The agreement with the IMF commits the government to reducing its budget deficit through more efficient tax collection, liberalising import regulations and selling state-controlled companies.

Jayne said the agreement would pave the way for about \$1.3 billion in new loans. But critics say the government's annual growth target of six per cent is unrealistic and that the programme will force new taxes and fuel inflation.

LAST 3 DAYS

FOR SALE

AT

The Grand Stores

The Grand Stores

KUWAIT - FEHHEEL - AHMADI

LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

NAME	LAST
ABBEY LIFE	323.0
ADT LTD	148.0
ALD LYONS	475.0
AMSTRAD	144.0
ARGYLE GP	168.0
ASDA GP	142.0
BAA	337.0
BTR	359.0
BAT INDS	528.0
BARCLAYS	428.0
BASS	924.0
BEAZER	209.0
BEECHAMS	570.0
BERSFORD	150.0
BICC PLC	492.0
BLUE ARW	91.0
BLUE CIRC	525.0
BOC GP	497.0
BOOTS CO	267.0
BPS INDS	252.0
BR CONN	214.0
BR AIRWAY	192.0
BR AEROSP	550.0
BR GAS RG	180.0
BR LAND	351.0
B.P.	288.0
B.P.PP	82.75
BR STEEL	271.0
BR TELCOM	565.0
BURMAN OL	209.0
BURTON	209.0
CABLESWIR	450.0
CALOR CORP	337.0
CLM CORP	877.0
CLINTON T	865.0
COOKSON	306.0
COURTAULD	295.0
DALGETY	347.0
DIXONS	169.5
ENG CHINA	522.0
ENTER OIL	553.0
FKI BARCK	167.0
FERRANTI	107.0
FISONS	277.0
GATEWAY	162.0
GEN ACCID	970.0
GEN ELEC	231.0
GLAXO	288.0
GRANADA	378.0
GLOBE	164.0
GLYNED	311.0
GUARD RYL	210.0
GKN	360.0
GUINNESS	415.0
HMWSON A	785.0
HARRISON C	181.5
HUKER SID	665.0
HILLSDON	279.0

LONDON
(Beta Stocks)

NAME	LAST
2ND ALLCE	860.0
600 GROUP	126.0
A.AMER TS	427.0
A.B.ELECT	443.0
A.S.V.HLD	252.0
AAB KENT	102.0
AAH HLD	400.0
AARONSON	119.0
ADDISON	37.4
ADVEST	178.0
ALEX WRK	185.0
ALEXON	388.0
ALLD COLL	132.4
ALLD IR B	295.0
ALLD LON	142.0
ALLD PART	77.0
ALLIANCE	967.0
AMBER DAY	55.4
ANEC	436.0
ANER TST	133.0
ANERSHAM	515.0
ANT HLTVC	338.0
ANGLIA TV	277.0
ANSBACHER	76.0
APPLYDAY	454.0
APV PLC	154.0
ASHLEY LA	108.0
AUS REE A	255.0
AUST REED	388.0
AUTO SECS	283.0
AVDEL PLC	99.4
AVESCO	139.0
AVIS EUR	384.0
AVON RUBB	634.0
B.MERHILL	241.0
BAILL JAP	515.0
BAILL SHI	92.4
BAIRD (U)	262.0
BANK IRE	295.0
BANKER TT	87.4
BARON GP	166.0
BARRY DEV	202.0
BAYNES C	30.0
BBA GROUP	187.0
BEAR BRID	10.6
BEATTIE J	164.0
BEHAVEN	51.0
BELLWAY	250.0
BENROSE	247.0
BENLOX N	63.0
BERKELEY	258.0
BH GROUP	123.0
BLK OF SCO	102.0
BLK LE 2	13.2
BM GROUP	450.0
BUNNETT F	115.4
BOISE HAS	05.00
BODINGTON	190.0
BOOTH SHIP	550.0
BOOTH SHIP	550.0
BOOTH SHIP	550.0
BORTHWICK	41.0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 300	1690.9	1705.5	1740.1	1455.3
FT 500	1690.9	1705.5	1740.1	1455.3
FT ALL SHR	1095.79	1095.79	1095.79	926.59
FT SEC	88.61	88.61	88.61	87.03
FT GOLD	194.2	194.2	194.2	161.9
FT MINES F	677.37	677.37	677.37	565.31
FT OIL	2020.4	2020.4	2020.4	1725.4
FT MID DLR	141.32	143.29	143.16	139.21
FT MID STG	122.27	123.99	123.49	115.30
FT MID LOC	129.07	130.63	130.24	123.40

London Stock Market Report

U.K. STOCKS NEAR LOWS BUT IGNORE EASIER WALL ST
LONDON, MARCH 20, REUTER - EQUITIES STOOD NEAR THEIR LOWS IN LATE TRADING WITH THE MUCH AS EXPECTED EASIER OPENING ON WALL STREET FALLING TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT ON SENTIMENT, DEALERS SAID. TODAY'S LOW VOLUME AND EASIER TREND REFLECTED INVESTOR RELUCTANCE TO ADJUST POSITIONS UNTIL THE GLOBAL INTEREST RATE PICTURE BECAME CLEARER.
"FRIDAY'S HIGH INFLATION FIGURE FROM THE U.S. MAKES A NEAR-TERM TIGHTENING BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE MORE LIKELY AND THAT COULD ULTIMATELY MEAN HIGHER RATES HERE...WHY BUY EQUITIES IF THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN?" SAID ONE TRADER.
AT 1530 GMT THE FTSE 100 WAS DOWN 18.1 POINTS AT 2,055.0.
THE FTSE 100 TOUCHED A LOW OF 2,051.2 AT 1355 GMT AND A MODIST 295 MLD SHARES WERE TRADED BY 1500 GMT. "THERE HAS BEEN NO REAL SELLING TODAY...THE BULK OF THE FALL IS DUE TO A MARK-DOWN BY CAUTIOUS MARKET MAKERS," ONE TRADER COMMENTED.
STOCK MARKET INVESTORS WORLDWIDE ARE BRACING THEMSELVES FOR TOMORROW'S U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI), ANOTHER IMPORTANT U.S. INFLATION INDICATOR.
SOME ECONOMISTS HAVE BEEN REVISITING THEIR FORECASTS UPWARDS FOR THE FEBRUARY CPI AFTER THE SURPRISE LEAP IN THE PRODUCER PRICE INDEX FRIDAY, BUT THE CONSENSUS IS FOR A RISE OF AROUND 0.5 PCT AFTER THE 0.6 PCT RISE IN JANUARY.

Precious Metals

LONDON, MARCH 20, REUTER - GOLD BULLION TRADED QUIETLY TO END THE DAY AT 395.75/396.25 DLR AS OILS COMPARED WITH AN AFTERNOON FIX OF 395.50 DLR AND FRIDAY'S 393.00/393.50 CLOSE.
DEALERS SAID GOLD AT ONE POINT ADVANCED TO THE 396.25/396.75 DLR AREA BUT IT SLIPPED BACK ON LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH WITH OPERATORS RELUCTANT TO PUSH PRICES TO HIGHER LEVELS AHEAD OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (CPI) FOR FEBRUARY DUE TO TOMORROW.
PRECIOUS METALS ARE LIKELY TO REMAIN QUIET AHEAD OF THE CPI DATA, WHICH WILL GIVE A GUIDE TO INFLATIONARY PRESSURES, THEY ADDED.

London Money Market

LONDON, MARCH 20, REUTER - BRITISH INTEREST RATES FINISHED LITTLE CHANGED FROM FRIDAY'S CLOSING LEVELS ALTHOUGH DEALERS NOTED A FIRMER BIAS AND INCREASING NERVOUSNESS ABOUT RISING INTERNATIONAL INTEREST RATES.
RENEWED FEARS THAT RISING INFLATIONARY PRESSURES IN THE U.S. WILL PROMPT FURTHER CREDIT TIGHTENING BY THE FEDERAL RESERVE ACCOUNTED FOR AN INITIAL 1/8 POINT MARK-UP.
HOWEVER, MANY FELT THE OPENING RISE IN RATES WAS OVERDONE AND A FAIRLY NEUTRAL SET OF U.K. MONETARY AND BANK LENDING DATA HELPED CALM THE MARKET'S JITTERS AND SENT RATES LOWER, ALMOST BACK TO FRIDAY'S CLOSING LEVELS.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	OPG
DLR	1.7145/55	1.8735/45	6.3430/60	NOON
STG	1.7130/40	3.2110/40	10.8680/80	NOON
DMK	1.8711/8791	3.207/221	29.455/615	FIX
FFR	3.3425/3545	10.873/891	338.240/880	FIX
SFR	1.6150/6160	2.7675/7706	86.11-21	FIX
HFL	2.1150	3.4255	25.44-47	FIX
ECU	1.11068	0.648004	112.825	CLSE
SDR	1.30364	0.758724	2.08286	CLSE
YEN	131.75/85	225.66/98	2.43598	CLSE
SDR RATE	17/03/1989	OTHERS	20/03/1989	NOON

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID-DAY
A.BSCN CON	33.5	33.6
ATLANTIC R	90.5	90.7
AAR CORP	28.1	28.3
ABBOTT LAB	51.2	51.1
ACME CLVLD	9.2	9.5
ADV MICRO	8.1	8.1
AEROFIL LAB	5.2	5.1
AETNA LIFE	49.7	49.6
AIMANSON	16.6	16.6
ATR PR-CHM	42.1	42.3
ALASKA AIR	34.6	34.6
ALBERTSONS	38.0	38.0
ALBMA S-16	0	0
ALCAN ALUM	31.5	31.5
ALCO STANO	25.4	25.5
ALCO SEC	21.1	21.3
AM CTRHNTD	49.7	49.7
AM FAMILY	15.6	15.7
AM HON RRO	85.0	85.1
AM STANDARD	0	0
AM STORES	36.1	36.0
AM TEL-TEL	31.6	32.0
AMOCO CORP	81.0	81.2
AMP INC	42.6	43.0
ANPCO PIIT	14.4	14.6
ANR CORP	58.2	58.5
ANR GEN CO	33.4	33.4
ANRADA NE	36.0	36.2
ANSTRONG	35.1	35.1
ASHLD OIL	40.3	40.4
ASIA PACIF	8.4	8.5
ATLS CORP	28.5	28.4
AVERT INT	22.6	22.6
AVNET INC	22.1	22.1
AVON PRODS	21.4	21.4
BCE INC	30.7	31.0
BELL SOUTH	40.4	40.5
BELO CP A	25.2	25.1
BETH STEEL	24.4	24.5
BEVERLY	8.5	8.5
BK HOSION	24.6	24.7
BK ESTN-A	0	0
BK N-YORK	44.7	44.6
BK TR-NY	40.6	41.0
BKAMERICA	22.0	21.7
BKAM SPEC	6.4	6.4
BOEING CO	67.2	67.6
BOISE CASC	42.0	42.1
BND IN GLD	56.4	57.1
BOJEN	27.1	27.1
BOATWER	47.2	47.6
BR TELECOM	27.2	27.1
BRIGGS-STR	44.1	44.3
BRIST-MYER	46.3	46.3
BRUNSWICK	17.3	17.4
C.3 INC	10.2	10.3
C.H.D. G-EL	21.1	21.1
CABOT CORP	33.5	33.4
CANADIAN AL	30.0	30.0
CA FREIGHT	23.5	23.5
CAS NAT GS	0	0
CAS-COKE	26.1	26.1
CATERPI TR	57.2	57.3
CD LMD	27.3	27.3
CBS	170.0	170.1
CENTEL CP	66.6	67.2
CHAMP INTL	31.0	31.2
CHAMP SPA	21.0	21.0
CHARTER CO	5.2	5.2
CHASE MAN	34.4	34.6
CHENED CP	33.6	33.6
CHENIC BNC	33.6	33.7
CHEVRON	54.0	54.4
CHRYSLER	25.0	25.0
CHRYSLER	25.0	25.0
CINILAC	22.6	22.7
CIR CIT ST	42.6	43.0
CIRCLE K	15.3	15.5
CITICORP	28.2	28.6
CLARK EQUI	34.0	34.2
CLOROX	31.2	31.2
CNPBLL RES	1.02	1.02
CNPBLL SP	30.7	31.0
CND PACIFIC	19.0	19.1
COACHMAN	9.4	9.4
COASTAL	33.1	33.1
COCA-COLA	50.2	50.6
COLECO	1.1	1.0
COLEMAN CO	73.0	73.0
COLG-PALM	46.3	46.4
COLUM GAS	35.2	35.2
COLUMBUS-C	0	0
CON EDISON	32.6	33.0
CON EDISON	30.7	30.7
CON EDISON	45.3	45.3
CONTINENTAL	32.3	32.3
CONTEL TILL	40.2	40.2
CONTEL CP	48.4	49.3
CONTR DATA	20.5	20.7
COOPER T-R	25.0	24.7
COOPER COR	4.0	3.7
CORNING GL	33.5	33.7
CRAY RES	59.1	59.3
CULLINET	5.1	5.0
DANA CORP	38.5	38.5
DANIEL IND	12.2	12.3
DATA GEN	16.5	16.6
DATON HLD	45.3	45.2
DEC	109.3	109.5
DEERE-CO	51.6	52.1
DELTA AIR	55.5	56.0
DIAMOND SH	19.6	19.6
DISNEY W	44.1	44.3
DISNEY W	76.5	77.1
DOVER CORP	28.3	28.4
DOW CHEM	92.4	92.4
DOW JONES	30.5	30.5
DRESSER INC	36.6	36.6
DREYFUS	28.0	28.2
DUKE POWER	49.0	49.0
DUN BRAD	49.0	49.0
DUPONT	101.0	101.4
DUQUESNE	18.0	18.0
DYNAMICS	23.2	23.4
E SYSTEMS	28.0	28.1
EAGLE PICH	13.6	14.1
EASTERN G	24.3	24.3
EMERSON EL	29.7	29.6
EMERSON RA	4.0	4.0
ETHYL CP	24.2	24.3
EXON	45.0	45.1
FAN DOL ST	11.4	11.4
FED NAT HD	63.4	63.5
FIELDCREST	23.5	23.6
FLEETWOOD	29.5	29.5
FLENNING CO	32.3	32.4
FNC CORP	35.5	35.5
FORD MOTOR	49.5	49.7
FOSTER UNIL	17.2	17.2
FRCHLD INC	13.7	13.7
FREE MC OG	4.6	4.6
FST BANK	19.7	19.6
FST CHICAG	38.6	38.6
FST INTERS	46.5	46.3
FST MISSIP	19.4	19.4
GAF CORP	50.6	51.0
GAMNET CO	34.4	34.4
GALVESTON	2.5	2.4
GATX CORP	54.0	54.0
GCA CP	0	0
GEN DATA	5.3	5.3
GEN DYNMCS	53.2	53.3
GEN ELECT	44.7	44.7

NEW YORK

BR VITA	1057	
BRENT CH	87	
BRENT WK	108	
BRITAIN	1227	
BRITANNIA	141/1	
BRITXON	252	
BRN & JA	103/0	
BROWN SH	119	
BRYANT G	38	
BSG INTL	138	
BUDGENS	186	
BULLOUGH	188	
BULMER H	388/0	
CAIRO CR	134/1	
CALENDOWN	295/0	
CAMB ELEC	142/0	
CANNING	78/0	
CANNON S	967/0	
CAP.RADIS	55/4	
CARADON	133/0	
CARLCO E	135	
CATTLE R	131/0	
CAULDON	277/0	
CENTL INT	155/0	
CHAM PHIR	107	
CHARTERIS	254	
CHAS CHIL	283/0	
CHILORIDE	99/0	
CHRISTIE	139	
C I GROUP	382	
CNTRY OIL	283/0	
COALITE	99/0	
COATES B	332/0	
COLLINS	683/0	
COMPAS	151/0	
CORNWELL	242/0	
COOPER R	295/0	
COSTAIN	87/0	
COURTS R	166/0	
COVIE CT	203/0	
CRK	31/0	
CRODA INC	187/0	
CRYSTAL	10/6	
DARES PRO	163/0	
DAVIS CG	51/0	
DAVY CORP	250/0	
DANSON G	248/0	
DELTA GR	24/0	
DEVENISH	123/0	
DEWINTER	102/0	
DIPLOMA	13/2	
DOBSON R	116/0	
DOMINGB	453/0	
DONTY GR	111/0	
DRAYTON	08.00	
DRG	190/0	
DUNDEIST	548/0	
DUNDEE L	458/0	
DUNHILL	41/0	
EAGLE TS		

Iraq starts petroleum exports from southern port

BAGHDAD, Iraq, March 20, (AP): Iraq has started regular exports of petroleum products from its southern port of Khor Al Zubair, the Oil Ministry said today.

A ministry spokesman, who was not identified, said the petroleum products were surplus products from the nearby Basra refinery.

The exports mark the first significant Iraqi oil shipments through the Gulf since the war with Iran broke out in September 1980.

Khor Al Zubair, which was reopened after the Aug. 20 ceasefire agreement with Iran halted fighting in the Gulf war, is linked to the Khar Abdullah waterway that runs into the northern Gulf west of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf.

The Basra refinery, heavily

damaged during the 8-year-old Gulf war, resumed partial operations last month after repairs.

The refinery, which had a pre-war capacity of 140,000 barrels a day, is currently producing an estimated 40,000 barrels a day. This is expected to rise to around 70,000 barrels a day soon.

The spokesman did not say what kinds of petroleum products have been exported, but they are believed to be fuel oil and lubricants. Volume is estimated at around 30,000-35,000 barrels a day.

Dispute

The exports are carried in small shuttle tankers to the Jebel Ali storage complex in Dubai in the southern end of the Gulf, where they will be loaded onto bigger tankers for shipment abroad.

Iraq also announced today

that the \$150-million project to build 10 new jetties at the southern port of Um Qasr will be completed by July.

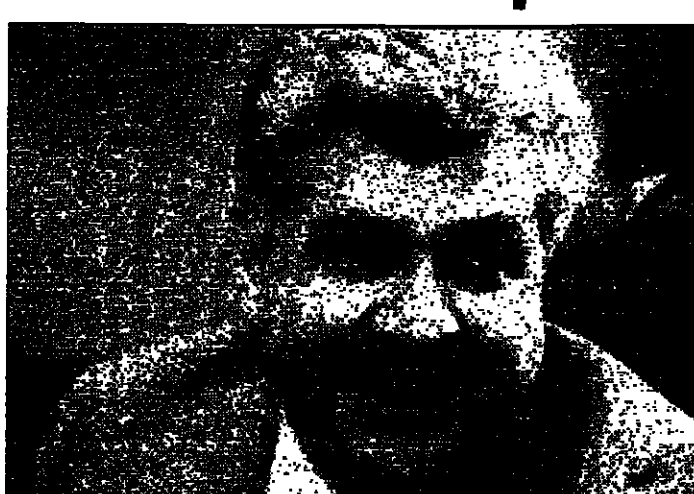
The Shatt Al Arab, the southern boundary between Iraq and Iran, remains closed because of a dispute between the two countries over navigation rights, a problem that has helped deadlock peace talks.

Large tankers are not able to load at Khor Al Zubair because of the shallow waters.

Iraq began irregular small-scale petroleum exports from its Gulf ports immediately after the ceasefire took effect. With tankers of around 20,000 tons ferrying exports to Jebel Ali.

Iraq's Gulf tanker routes were closed early in the war, that seriously impaired Iraq's vital oil exports, its economic mainstay.

But Baghdad got around the problem by building pipelines



Issam Al Chalabi

through neighbouring Turkey and Saudi Arabia. It also trucked oil exports through Jordan, to the port of Aqaba, and through Turkey.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Al Chalabi said last month that the volume trucked overland will depend on the amount exported through the Gulf.

New funds needed

IMF hopes for quick Mexican debt reduction

WASHINGTON, March 20, (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) hopes Mexico will soon kick off the new US plan to slash Third World debt but needs a big increase in capital to implement the initiative in full, monetary officials say.

A senior IMF official, who briefed reporters at the weekend on condition that he not be named, called the US proposal an "historic opportunity" and estimated that it could reduce the amount of bank debt by 20 to 25 per cent within four years.

"We'd be delighted if the first operations could be under way by the summer," the official said.

In addition to Mexico, which the IMF official said was negotiating a medium-term economic programme with the fund, other officials said Venezuela and the Philippines were among the first nations likely to benefit from the plan.

But on the eve of the Inter-American Development Bank's annual meeting in Amsterdam, the US initiative sparked concern yesterday among senior bankers and finance officials from both debtor and creditor countries who said excessive expectations were building over the plan's likely success.

Panelists at a seminar on stimulating capital flows to Latin America downplayed the prospects of debt reduction in resolving the region's debt.

"It is seductive and at the same time important to express language that lifts spirits but if the proposals don't offer plain advantages it's not going to work," Eugene Rotberg, former World Bank treasurer and now executive vice-president of Merrill Lynch, said.

Also in Amsterdam William



Nicholas Brady

Rhodes, chairman of the restructuring committee of Citibank, told reporters yesterday Mexico has not yet approached its creditor banks to set any date for debt restructuring talks.

"The Mexicans have not told me when they hope to start negotiations, nor in what manner," he said.

The US debt-reduction projection is in line with forecasts by the US Treasury, which hopes the 39 countries that have rescheduled their bank loans since 1982 will cut their debt by 20 per cent, or about \$70 billion, over three years. The Treasury also expects \$20 billion in interest savings.

Warned

But the official warned that the benefit of the plan would be blunted if interest rates stay high. The 15 biggest debtors alone have paid \$10 billion more in interest in the past year.

Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady softened Washington's opposition to a quota increase

when he outlined the debt reduction plan on March 10, but in light of budget constraints and the fact that the IMF still has \$45 billion in cash on hand he may not support a rise of more than 50 per cent.

Details of the US initiative will be thrashed out when the world's finance ministers gather here from March 31 to April 4 for their regular spring meeting.

Brady's plan would employ IMF and World Bank loans to developing countries to finance direct debt repurchases and back repayment of principal and interest on the loans that remain. It marks a fundamental shift from the strategy of his predecessor James Baker, now secretary of state.

The Baker Plan held out the promise of new loans to countries that reformed their economies along market lines. The plan bought time and scored some successes, but it ultimately failed because banks would not lend enough.

Former Dow Jones chairman Kerby dies

BETHLEHEM, Pennsylvania, March 20, (AP): William F. Kerby, a former chairman of Dow Jones and Co., whose career in the newspaper business spanned nearly half a century, died of cancer yesterday at his home here. He was 81.

Kerby was a career newspaperman who held every major position on the news staff of the Wall Street Journal prior to becoming an executive officer at the journal's publisher, Dow Jones and Co., according to a statement from Dow Jones.

"Bill Kerby served Dow Jones with distinction for 47 years in jobs ranging from reporter to chairman and chief executive," said Warren H. Phillips, Dow Jones chairman, in the statement.

Kerby joined the journal's Washington D.C. staff in 1933. He was managing editor and then executive editor from 1942 to 1951, helping to develop the

front-page news features and other innovations that shaped the modern Wall Street Journal and its growth into a national paper.

Kerby was elected executive vice-president of Dow Jones in 1961, president in 1966, and chairman of the board in 1972. He retired in 1978 but continued to serve on the board of directors until Nov. 19, 1980.

As president of Dow Jones and its chairman from 1966 to 1978, he presided over the company's diversification into community newspapers, overseas publishing, electronic information services and other ventures.

His wife, the former Frances Justina Douglass, died in 1986. Surviving are two daughters, Jean Frances Warner and Judith Ann Beckmann, and six grandchildren.

OPEC February output above quota ceiling: study

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 20, (AP): OPEC production in February was an estimated 18.938 million BPD, more than 400,000 barrels over the organisations output ceiling, the Middle East Economic Survey reported today.

The oil industry newsletter said that even with an estimated United Arab Emirates production of 1.505 million BPD, well above its quota, the total was "significantly below the estimates ... currently being made by major oil companies and other industry sources."

The weekly said that production monitors from 12 of the 13 member countries of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries — excluding the UAE — estimated at a Vienna meeting last week that production by their countries in February totalled 17.433 million BPD.

The quota ceiling for the 12 under a December agreement, based on actual supply rather than wellhead production, is 17.512 million BPD.

Production

The newsletter said that wellhead production by the 12 averaged 17.853 million BPD, indicating a stockbuild of 419,000 BPD.

It noted that the January stockbuild was 700,000 BPD for the 12, with estimated supply for that month at 17.42 million barrels daily and wellhead production at 18.1 million BPD.

The weekly said that the UAE which was one of the main over-

production violators of an earlier quota accord, did not attend the Vienna meeting last week and did not provide any production figures.

However, the newsletter estimated that UAE production for February was 1.505 million BPD, compared to its quota of 988,000 BPD.

The UAE has said it will abide by the quota system, even though it has demanded a quota of 1.5 million BPD.

With the UAE estimates included, overall OPEC supply for last month totalled 18.938 million BPD, with wellhead production estimated at 19.358 million BPD, the survey reported.

Supply

The total compiled in Vienna last week, indicated that the supply figures for several OPEC members were below their quota ceilings, the weekly noted.

It said that the Vienna findings showed that the only one of the 12 OPEC members listed with a significant over-production was Ecuador, with a supply total of 290,000 BPD. That is 60,000 BPD over its quota.

The overall quota limit of 18.5 million BPD was designed to curb runaway over-production by the UAE and others and push sagging prices up.

The target was the OPEC benchmark of \$18 a barrel. Since the new quota was agreed, prices have risen more than \$5 a barrel and topped the \$20 level on Friday.

Eximbank official seeks more funds

WASHINGTON, March 20, (AP): William F. Ryan, acting president of the US government's Export-Import Bank, appealed on Friday for more money for loans to encourage US exports.

President George Bush's budget calls for no new funds for the bank's direct loans in the year beginning Oct. 1. But many members of Congress, including leaders of his own Republican Party, are expected to vote anyway for hundreds of millions of dollars.

"Loan demand for 1989 will exceed Eximbank's \$695 million budget authority," Ryan told a conference on export financing.

"In fact, we expect to have to defer some loan authorisations into 1990, just as we did into 1989."

He called the money vital to important to compete with other industrial exporting countries, such as Japan, West Germany, Britain and France.

"Severely curtailing Eximbank's export loan programme could impair the competitiveness of a significant portion of the US capital equipment sector, which depends on exports," he said.

"Lost jobs and reduced competitiveness would be the result."

Ryan's bid was echoed by Peter L. Rapuzzi, president of Chase Trade, Inc. He said there had been much talk of small and medium sized exporters leading the growth of US trade.

Over 55 years, Exim has supported nearly \$200 billion worth of US exports through loans, guarantees of commercial bank loans and insurance.

Rapuzzi also urged a larger programme to match the "mixed credits" offered by some exporting governments, which use money appropriated as aid to promote their own exports.

Former presidents of Exim, while calling for funds to meet this competition, have denounced it.

China gets go-ahead to build petrochemical plant in UAE

DUBAI, March 20, (Agencies): Chinese Vice-Premier Tian Jiyun has given the go-ahead for China to build a large petrochemical plant in Dubai's Jebel Ali free trade zone, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Chinese embassy officials said today that a team would visit Dubai to discuss the scheme, the details of which had not yet been decided.

Tian left the UAE last evening after a four-day visit.

China's trade with the UAE rose to \$160 million in 1988 from around \$60 million in 1986. It is a major importer of fertiliser from the UAE.

Meanwhile, an ambitious experiment to allow Chinese to own their own homes has halted in Yantai, the seaside city because of complaints from powerful officials and austerity policies in Beijing.

Other experiments in housing reform throughout China are also off to a slow start due to exorbitant prices for living space and lack of confidence in the government.

"The policies are in contradiction. We don't know what the future holds," said Qin Shiyu, a housing reform official in Yantai, a breezy town in Shandong province on the Bohai Sea coast.

In Beijing, apartments cost around 1,850 yuan (\$500) per square metre (\$45 per square foot), meaning that an average college graduate would have to save his total income for 70 years to buy a basic three-room flat.

In crowded Shanghai, prices can be even higher. A recent report by the official Xinhua news agency said living space in a Shanghai neighbourhood amounted to five square metres (54 square feet) per person.

"And that's only for the relatively well off," the report said, adding that thousands were living in two square metres (22 square feet) of space.

In Yantai, prices have been more reasonable, and 1,600 homes have been sold in about two years.

Yu Bignao, a worker at the Yantai General Synthetic Leather

Factory, was one of the lucky ones. In October, he scraped

together his life savings, took out a loan and bought his 55.5-

square-metre (600-square-foot) apartment for about 12,000

yuan (\$3,243).

Iraq to get \$50m credit from Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, March 20, (KUNA): Pakistan will give Iraq a credit of \$50 million, the Minister of Commerce, Local Government and Rural Development Faisal Saleh Hayat said here yesterday.

He told a news conference that he signed an agreement for this export credit during his recent stay in Baghdad.

Hayat, who yesterday returned home from a six-day visit to United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Iraq, said that a delegation of Iraqi businessmen

and industrialists would shortly visit Pakistan to select Pakistani goods for export to Iraq out of the \$50 million credit.

The minister said that Iraq had shown interest in acquiring ships, trawlers and shipping services from Pakistan.

According to him, Iraq had drawn up a grand plan of reconstruction after its eight-year long war with Iran came to a halt, and Pakistan had offered to extend its assistance in machinery, technical field and manpower.

Bassam Alghanim hosts dinner



Bassam Alghanim, president of Alghanim Industries hosted a dinner in honour of John E. Rham, president of GMDCC. The dinner was attended by the US Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howel and Riza Yusuf Behbehani, visiting GM executives and Alghanim Industries executives. Picture shows from left to right, Riza Yusuf Behbehani, John Rham, US Ambassador W. Nathaniel Howel and Bassam Alghanim.

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WITH LOVE
GIVE HER A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER
TRADITIONALLY,
EVERY LADY LIKES TO STORE
GOLD COINS IN GOOD TIMES.
IT IS A SAVING UNLIKE PAPER,
ITS VALUE DEPENDS ON NO NATION
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EASY TO CARRY ANYWHERE,
A DELIGHT TO WEAR ANY TIME.
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THE BEST INVESTMENT...
MAKE MOTHERS DAY SPECIAL,
SHOW YOUR LOVE AND
RESPECT.
BUY HER 24K MAPLE LEAF
AND 24 K PANDA GOLD COINS
MAKE AN EVER LASTING
GIFT...
Oriental Pearl
Souk Al Muttaheda Tel. 2442174.

مكتبة

EVENTS

Primary health care for Bangladeshis

A PROMINENT Bangladeshi doctor was in Kuwait this week to seek funds for his Islamic Medical Mission which trains imams of mosques to dispense medicine in remote areas not serviced by doctors and hospitals.

Dr. Nurul Islam held talks with several senior officials. The mission, recognised by the Bangladesh government, spends between KD1,000 and KD1,500 per year to train imams for the scheme which is devised to provide primary health care to everyone in Bangladesh.

The Bangladeshis want to make the mosque a centre of religion and social welfare. Dr. Islam said: "We believe that the mosque could become a centre not only of religion but could be the centre of social welfare."

Dr. Islam, who founded the mission — a charitable organisation, three years ago believes that a mosque can play a central role in dispelling misconceptions arising from ignorance.



Dr Nurul Islam: devoted to health care

from all parts of Bangladesh for training at the mission's headquarters in Dhaka. So far, 800 imams have been trained. In 1989/90, about 1,000 will be trained, he said. Training costs only KD1 per person, including boarding and lodging and free distribution of medical literature, written by Dr. Islam.

Volunteer doctors lecture the imams. On completing the 20-day training programme, they receive certificates from the mission.

When the imams return to the village, they charge a token fee for dispensing medicine to people who can afford to pay. The very poor are provided free care.

The money collected from advice is spent on buying medicine, and a small amount, decided by the mosque committee, is given to the imams.

Dr. Islam, who propagates the idea in the developing world, believes that the scheme could work all over the Muslim world.



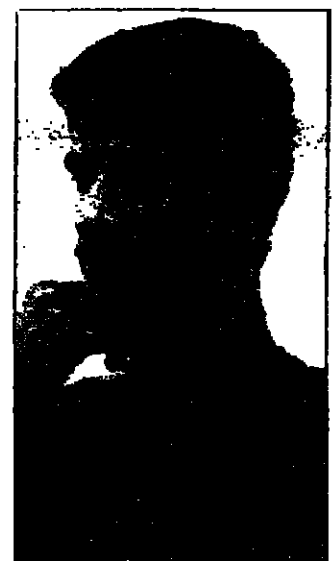
'Yearning', one of the paintings on display

Al Munayes turns to abstract art

KUWAITI artist Ahmed Al Munayes will exhibit his new collection of abstract art paintings at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery.

Dr Farouq Al Omar, general secretary of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, will open the exhibition tonight.

Al Munayes, who has changed his style several times over the last five years, has now turned to abstract art to capture the theme of women and love, the dominant theme in the 17 paintings he is showing at the current display entitled "Journey".



Al Munayes

bold in approach and seems to have shed his inhibited style of earlier years.

The exhibition will be open for 10 days, daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
AN exhibition of paintings by Bangladeshi artist Mounirul Islam is open at the gallery. Thunayan Al Ghanim Bldg., Al Soor St., daily except Friday from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 8 pm.

Soushiat Gallery
GRAPHIC art by Bulgarian artists will go on show at 6 pm tonight at the gallery in Salma. It was opened by Bulgarian Ambassador Angel Mantchev. It is open to the public daily from 9 am to 12.30 noon and 4 to 8.30 pm, until March 28.

Kuwait Science Museum
OPEN Saturday - Wednesday, 4.30 - 5.30 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursday and Friday.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.

Arabian Gulf St.
Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT. - Thurs.: 8.30 am to 12.30 pm and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection of Islamic art, ceramics and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT. - Thurs.: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts.

CINEMA

Iraqi Film Festival
AN Iraqi film festival will be held in Kuwait from March 20 to 29. The following films will be shown:

March 21: Al La'abah (1987), director: Mohammad Shukri Jamil, starring Abdul Rida, Qassem Mallak, Sana Abdul Rahman.

March 22: Sitta ala Sitta (1988), director: Khairiya Mansour, starring Yassam Mallak, Laila Ahmad.

March 25: Urs Iraqi (1988), director: Mohd. Shukri Jamil, starring Qassem Mallak, Sana Abdul Rahman.

March 27: Al Faris Wal Jabal, starring: Khalil Shawki, Susan Al Ali.

March 28: Shay Min Al Quwwah, starring Miqdad Abdul Rida, Khalil Shawki.

March 29: Al Bait, starring Athar Khidir, Awatif Ibrahim.

All films will be shown at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Children not permitted inside the auditorium.

Japanese Movie

MARCH 23 (4-6 pm): A Japanese cartoon feature entitled "Future War" will be shown in Al Thuraya Room, 16th floor, Meridien Hotel. Snacks and refreshments will be served.

Mary Poppins

MARCH 22 (5.30 pm) and March 23 (10 am): Mary Poppins, starring Julie Andrews as the nanny with a passion for magical adventures, will be shown at the British Council. The animation, live action and award-winning songs brought this film five Academy Awards. Admission free but it is advisable to reserve seats. Children and adults welcome. Tel: 2515512; 2533204.

MUSIC

Jukebox 5
UNTIL March 22 (7 pm): Auditions for singers and dancers for the Sounds Great production of Jukebox 5 at Sunshine School, Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken

Winston with June Woolston

and Phil Thomas as musical directors. Nacsh Hameed will choreograph the show. Dancers and singers must come prepared and bring dance gear and music with them. For details ring 5740256 or 5625316.

Children's Dance Recital

MARCH 21/22 (6 pm): Steps School of Ballet will present a children's dance recital in the theatre of the Kuwait English School, Salwa. Tickets, KD2, are available at KES from 5 to 7 pm on weekdays. Tel: 5629356 ext 55 (pm only) or 5616228.

Beat Concert

MARCH 31: Vishal Arts present a beat concert featuring Symphony and Perfect Strangers from 10 am at the Sharq Co-operative Hall. At 6 pm the group will present a variety show with Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi music and folk dances. For details call Anthony D'Souza or Arjun Gehi. Tel: 2631826 or 2663693.

Open-Air Concert

MARCH 31: Steve Michael with the Zambesi will feature in the "Peace and Love" concert at the Salmiya Club stadium. The show starts at 5 pm. Tickets are now available from Swan Lake, Salmiya/Kuwait City. No. 1 records, Sultan-Center, Salmiya.

THEATRE

Malayalam Drama
APRIL 7: Gayathi Arts will present their first Malayalam drama "Karutha Pannam" at Indian Arts Circle. Written by Chandra Mohan and directed by Nandan Iringalakuda. For entry passes call 5643126.

ACT

MARCH 27, 28, 29, 30 (8 pm): ACT presents Jean Giraudoux' comic fantasy "The Madwoman of Chaillot," directed by George Plautz, at Montseir Theatre, Jahriya. Reduced ticket price for opening night. For reservations call 5731782 (answerphone) or 5755391, 5-7 pm.

EXHIBITION

Silk Painting Exhibition
MARCH 21-23 (5-9 pm): Ladies from the German-speaking cultural association will hold a silk painting exhibition at Kuwait International Hotel, Old Failand room. Exhibits include Arab scenes, art nouveau and other subjects as well as cushions, scarves, brooches and a small Easter bazaar. All are welcome.

Photographs on show

PHOTOGRAPHS from the British embassy reception for the Prince and Princess of Wales are on show from today at the British council, 2 Al Arabi Street, Mansouriya. For details call 2515512.

SOCIAL

Flag hoisting
MARCH 23: On the occasion of Pakistan Day, the embassy of Pakistan will hold a flag-hoisting ceremony at 9 am at the chancery premises. All Pakistanis are welcome. The embassy will be closed on that day.

Community Festival

MARCH 31: 4.30 pm. Thapasya, an Indian group, will hold a community festival featuring folk dances at Mascala Family Beach. Entrance: 500 fils (adults); 250 fils (children).

Southerners get-together

MARCH 31: The Southerners will hold a get-together at Carlton Towers Hotel from 10 am to 4 pm. Next of Kin will provide musical entertainment. For details ring 2425705 or 4831484.

KAPILKU

MARCH 31: A baking class, from 9.30 am to 12 noon and a

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn
EVERY Wednesday is "Sea Drama on Ice" in Al Dana. Enjoy fresh fish and seafood specialties. Thursday night is Indian night featuring exotic Eastern cuisine; and listen to the music played by the Gharbian Trio.

Enjoy Arabian Night in Al Andalus

Supper club on Thursday nights. Friday brunch — fun time for families; games, prizes. Also open to Jaycee Club members.

At Maharaja Palace Restaurant

A MEAT festival, promoting Indian cuisine, is being held until the end of March. Live music by Indian musicians. Open for lunch and dinner from 12.30 to 3 pm and 7 to 11 pm, located near the Kuwait Towers.

At the Kuwait Plaza

AL DALLAH coffee shop: breakfast buffet, lunch and dinner; also set menu; mini-business lunch.

Marco Polo Restaurant: Italian food, live music by the Duonova band.

Lolouwah Corner: open from 4 to 10 pm, offering snacks and refreshments.

At the Pullman

ELYSEES Restaurant offers gourmet French meal; Al Shallal Coffee Shop features international and Arabic cuisine with live entertainment.

At the Meridien

A SPECIAL menu will be featured in the Versailles, Al Waha and La Brasserie Restaurants to celebrate the Mother's Day. The hotels will give roses and gifts to all mothers visiting the outlets. A special cake will also be featured in Al Waha.

At the Ramada

AL BENDAR Coffee Shop offers continental and Arabic buffets for breakfast, lunch and dinner; 6 am to midnight; a la carte available.

Thursday's is BBQ Night at Le Mirage

Night Club, with full buffet and entertainment by the Al Arzz Band.

The Friday Family Brunch

introduces cartoon characters on the ship's discovery; train tour of the hotel's garden and waterfront.

The Marina Takeaway Counter features a selection of sandwiches and snacks, 4 pm to 11 pm.

At the Continental

GARDENIA: 7 am to midnight; buffets featuring Arabic, continental and Indian food. Special buffet for Thursday dinner and Friday lunch. Darbar: daily Indian lunch buffet, except Friday; a la carte dinner.

SPORTS

BA Speedbird Trophy

MARCH 24: The BA Speedbird Trophy cricket match between teams representing Britain and Pakistan will be held at the KOC New Ground, Ahmadi. Play will commence at 9.30 am. All are welcome.

Volleyball Tournament

MARCH 31: The Kuwait Malayalee Association will hold a volleyball tournament for Indians in connection with the Nehru Centenary celebrations. For details call Prem — 4675622 ext 293 (7 am - 3 pm).

Nehru Cup

MARCH 25: The inaugural Nehru Cup volleyball tournament will be held at the Mascala courts. For details of participation contact the organiser on Tel: 3928493, 8 am to 8 pm.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Cartoon Serial
10.00 Ashwaqi Bila Hodood: Arabic serial, starring Hamdi Ghailh, Shwekar, Tahiya Karioka, Nasreen
11.00 Baqaya Wajoo: Arabic serial, starring Ibrahim Sallal, Haifa Adel, Ayesha Ibrahim, Khalifa Omar.
12.00 Arab Television: weekly programme.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite/Closedown

KTV 2

3.00 Holy Quran
3.10 Cartoons
3.50 Ahmadi Football: Al Kuwait vs Al Qadisiya
6.30 Break Point
7.00 A Finite World: "India", Part 2. The state of Kerala has the highest literacy rate in India. A look at life in

san, Marcel Marma. 6.30 Songs and Music
7.00 News Summary
7.15 You and Your Health
7.50 Likulli Sawal wa Jawaab: Questions and Answers, prepared and presented by Dr. Farook Omar.
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Loolu wa Asduaf: Arabic serial
10.45 Min Al Alif Ila Alaya: variety show
11.15 News Summary
11.50 World News via Satellite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Kerala; and the daily life of people in Bombay and Delhi.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Last Season: part 2.
9.40 The Hit Squad: "Catch it before it catches you" is the theme of this practical jokes series.
10.10 Bustin' Loose: "First Day of Rest in his Life". Sunny is tired of house chores and decides to call it a day. Starring: Larry Williams. Comedy.
10.30 The Equaliser: "Last Companion" McCall is involved in political intrigue in tonight's episode. Starring: Edward Woodward.
11.30 News Summary followed by Magazine D'Actualite/Holy Quran/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0000 Newscast
30 Composer of the Month
0100 News Summary followed by Play of the Week: 5th Kiron's Kingdom: 12th Perestroika: 19th Nightmar World: 26th Science Fiction
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 The Picture of Dorian Gray
30 The Ken Bruce Show
0300 World News
09 News About Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Screenplay
0400 Newscast
30 Sing Gospel
45 Worldbrief
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Financial Review
40 Words of Faith
45 Letter from America
0600 Newscast
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News

Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
45 Book Choice
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Words of Faith
15 The Pleasure of Yours
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Nature Now
30 Financial Review
39 Book Choice
45 Short Story
1000 News Summary followed by Science in Action (ex 26th Liba et Orbis)
30 In Praise of God
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Composer of the Month
1200 News Summary (ex 12th) followed by Play of the Week: 5th Kiron's Kingdom: 12th Perestroika: 19th Nightmar World: 26th Science Fiction
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Sports Roundup
45 Worldbrief
1400 News Summary followed by 5th and 12th Phone-In: 19th

and 26th Para Wojyla
30 Anything Goes (ex 5th and 12th Phone-In count)
1500 Newscast
15 International Recital (ex 26th Concert Hall)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Colours
45 Letter from America
1700 World News
09 Book Choice
15 Jazz for the Asking
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newscast
30 In Praise of God
1900 News Summary followed by Here's Humph!
15 Time Will Tell

Urdu

1900 Opening
1910 Behnam Qual
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Ek Khayal Ek Geet
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Geet Kahani
2100 Closedown

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamia Pharmacy
Jandol, Bldg., Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Rashid Pharmacy St
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Badr Pharmacy
Mohammad Muslim Bldg.
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Sahara Pharmacy
Salem Al Mubarak St.
Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Sheba Pharmacy
F'heel
Khalitan
Al Taufiq Pharmacy
Jara Commercial Centre, No. 3, Main St.
Jahra
Al Khalid Pharmacy
Opp. Co-operative Society

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Al Duniya Al Jinah
Yamama (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Mervat Ameen
Al Salmiya
Jamal Muhamal Ya Shaab (Arabic play)
Al Hama
Revolution
Starring: Al Pacino, Nastassja Kinski
Drive-In
Kul Hada Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Laila Alwi
Al Firdous
Be-Laagam (Hindi)
Starring: Randhir Kapoor, Rekha
Fahsheel Open-Air
Shoorveer (Hindi)

Al Fahsheel
All of Me
Al Jahra
Abojmon (Bengali)
Granada
August 1 (Malayalam)
Sulaibikhat
Rambo III
Al Jleeb
Kaavin (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Al Mo'alimah Samah (Arabic)

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.30 am
Zuhr	11.55
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.01
Isha	7.17



Potted Chrysanthemums have a life span of 2 months with adequate care

For only K.D. 1/-

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March 21st... Mother's Day and the 1st Day of Spring

What better occasion to say "thank you, I love you," with a potted Chrysanthemum in yellow, white, red ...

Available at
Aber Flower Shop in Zahra Complex, Salmiah, Tel: 5749074 and our Showroom at Al Rai (Nursery area), Tel: 4715619, 4718903.
PALMS AGRO-PRODUCTION CO.

In the business of growing green



Being a maestro is just child's play!

The Suzuki method also calls for the parents to learn the fundamentals of music. That way they

He saw that the happy, relaxed and natural way of teaching a child to speak was the most successful educational process — and this was how music should be.

Three-year-old Helen plays a mini cello, inset (above) Suzuki children playing at the 1987 International Opera festival and (left), Dr Suzuki.

Dear darling Benito ...

There, according to one of his biographers, British historian Christopher Hibbert, he would "ravish them as conquering warlord might ravish his captured slaves...often choosing the floor in preference to the bed, removing neither his trousers or his

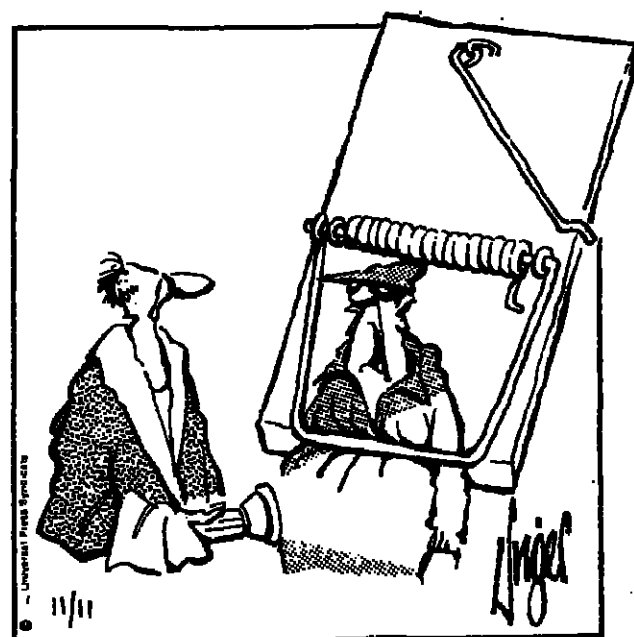
"On April 22 I gave birth to two boys: since then I have been waiting for the prize offered by you to the mothers of twins but have received nothing," wrote Paola D. from Turin in 1941, adding that her requests for extra food rations had been turned down.

Few of the hundreds of thousands of supplicants appeared to have had their requests met, since the researchers found little evidence of letters written by them in thanks for favours.

P	A	C	T	A	P	E	R	B	L	O	W
E	C	H	O	S	U	G	A	R	L	A	N
G	R	I	N	D	S	T	O	N	E	A	S
E	P	E	E				T	R	A	C	T
				E	I	V	E	S	U	L	K
M	I	S	D	E	A	L		N	E	S	T
G	I	L	T		S	T	E	P		S	T
O	L	I	O		T	I	M	E	S	O	M
E	L	A	N	D		N	O	S	E	N	E
R	E	D	E	E	M		N	O	W	H	E
			H	E	A	P		S	S	E	
R	E	V	E	R	S	E					
A	M	E	N		S	T	O	N	E	B	R
E	T	T	E		E	T	N	A	S	I	R
E	T	T	E		Y	E	N	S	A	N	S

The auction was straightforward. North planned to issue a game invitation until South responded with spades to his Stayman inquiry. He then decided that his five-card suit merited a direct raise to game—a questionable decision in view of his

The Sun's better influence will help you to deal with a personal problem. Make sure you do not neglect your personal hygiene. E



"You'll be hearing from my lawyer."

هكذا من لا علم

هكذا من لا حظ

The American School Kuwait

Sports Day



New records set

THE American School Kuwait (ASK) held its Sports Day last week. Grades 3, 4 and 5 had their sports day in Al Arabi Club stadium. The students participated in a number of events, including running, mat carry, filling a bucket, skittle-throw and tug-of-war. On March 13th and 14th, The American School Kuwait also held its annual sports day for the middle school and high school students. It was held at the University of Kuwait, in the Shuwaikh stadium.

In the two days of competition, many new school records were set. Vincent Polk dominated the middle school events by winning the 100m, 200m, the hurdles and the long jump. Haneen Al Rayes was the outstanding athlete of the high school. She won the 100m, 200m and the long jump. The school's administration and its department of Physical Education would like to thank the officials of the University and especially the Director of Student Affairs and Athletic Activities, Ali Shuaib, for their help and friendly co-operation.

Dear Junior Readers,

GOOD NEWS ... elder readers are free to participate with their knowledge in the page too! This means that all those over twelve and under eighteen have a chance to express their opinion in any subject they wish.

They may write about the problems of school load, dating, keeping fit, how to apply make-up, music and where to get tapes/records/compact discs in Kuwait and even how to act in a party. Actually, they are free to write on anything they wish.

Their opinions should be written in clear handwriting (or typed) and approximately 500 words. We are looking forward to their work, so tell all your brothers and sisters! Remember: with your work enclose your name, a photograph, your telephone number, school and class (if you wish to keep your work anonymous you may).

And all of you readers, we want your work to fill the page. Show the world how good you are.

Manal

Ha! Ha!

Why couldn't the skeleton go to the ball?
"Cos he had nobody to go with."

What do you do if you see a skeleton running across a busy road?
Jump out of your skin and join him.

What do ghosts wear in the rain?
Boo-oots and ghoul-shoes.

What do ghosts eat for breakfast?
Dreaded wheat.

Why do ghosts like tall buildings?
"Cos they have lots of scarecases."

What did the ghost guard say?
"Who ghosts there?"

The Universal American School

The day when all countries meet

Ethnic Day



From top left: Sudan, Oman, Morocco, India, Palestine, Korea, Canada

LAST Wednesday at 11:30 am, the Universal American School (UAS) held its annual ethnic day for the third successive year.

Twenty-nine countries were represented, including Kuwait, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Philippines, Pakistan, India, Armenia, Sudan, Korea, West and East Europe, and USA.

Six hundred students, ranging in the age span of five to eighteen years, participated eagerly and of these sixty-five proudly wore their national costumes, sang and danced folklore dances which represented their homeland. Cultural booths revealed the participating countries secrets. They characterised local food and jewellery and revealed a new way of life, unique to each country.

Your work

Young poet

My father

My father is a strong man.
My father has a car.
My father works and brings money.
I love my father.
He brings me many toys.
My father loves me.

Myself

My name is Shereen,
I am a brave girl.
I have ten tiny fingers
and ten tiny toes.
Two little ears, two little eyes;
Two little feet and hands
and one nose.
My parents call me sweetie,
I have many toys.
I love my parents.

My puppy

I have a little puppy,
Who is white and fluffy.
I call him Bunny.
And he is very funny.
When I take him for a run
in the early morning sun.
He sniffs at every bush and hole,
and barks at any squirrel or mole.
He jumps, wags his tail in glee,
A spirit so happy and carefree.
He watches our house at night,
while I sleep with my eyes shut tight.
I love him with all my heart,
and will never from him part.

Riddle

It has scales but it is not a fish, it has a crown, but it is not a king. What is it?



Shereen Alum, 7 years, Class 2A, Indian School.

adpdaud a :unp

MARKETPLACE

A black and white illustration of an elephant standing next to a large sign. The sign is tilted and features the text "JUMBO SALE" in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, in smaller text, it says "Each day in the classified pages of the Arab Times". The elephant is facing left, with its trunk curved downwards. The sign is decorated with a border and has a tassel hanging from the bottom. The entire illustration is set against a background of small dots.

JUMBO SALE

Each day
in the
classified
pages of the
Arab Times

ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

SPORTS

Pete Nierva leads in bowling tournament

FIRST round leader Pete Nierva finished out another fine performance and emerged still on top with a total score of 1187 pf after the second elimination round of the Alghanim Freight Open bowling tournament. Just five pins behind the pace setter is Nafez Akhras with 1182 followed by Mar Evangelista with 1166.

The high game of the day came from Malaysia's Victor Choong with a score of 229 pf while Mar Evangelista finally showed his true form by submitting the high series with a total of 644 pf for three games.

In the women's, the day belonged to Cora Paras who outshone everyone by scoring both the high game (202) and the high series (540). The top five qualifiers for the women's who will vie for the championship via the step ladder system are as follows in order of their final standing:

Ebe Guimay, Eva Sabay, Cora Paras, Arjeon Bonecillo, and Mercy Labore.

For the men's division the top five qualifiers are as follows also in order of their standing after six games: Pete Nierva, Nafez Akhras, Mar Evangelista, Joe Bilos, Hameed Qabandi, Tony Lacson, Nelson Guillermo Victor Choong, Bheenie Guimay, Mohd. Darwish, Rico Pino, George Gaerlan, Ahmed Otaibi, Nonoy Maramba, Hashat Mohd., Munib Hamdan, Samir Peter, Mansour Shatti, Mars Balis, Hashem Mousa, Anukul, Mohd. Seraj, Homer Mesina and Edwin Nepomuceno.

All the qualifiers should be at the venue at exactly 9:00, Friday, March 31 and late comers will automatically forfeit their chance for the next qualifying round.

In other developments the PBAK membership drive is in full swing and all interested parties can contact the following: Pete Nierva, Lynne Reyes and Arjeon Bonecillo. PBAK President Rico Pino is urging all the bowlers to register or renew their membership now so as to avail themselves of all the benefits the association is giving to its members. The bowling centres will also start to ask for membership cards for anyone to have free entrance and discounted rates for the games played.

Executive Director Arthur Reyes wishes to remind all the qualifiers of the 2nd Alghanim Freight Open bowling tournament that the games will take a break this coming week in observance of the holy week and will resume on March 31 at 9:00 am.

The remaining scheduled games are 9:00 am — top 24 for men; 1:00 pm — top 12 for men; 4:00 pm — step ladder championship for the top 5 women; 5:00 pm — step ladder championship for the top 5 men.

Soccer fans riot in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, March 20, (Reuters). Police said yesterday they had arrested up to 100 people after rival Turkish soccer fans battled each other and riot police in Istanbul overnight.

Newspapers reported between five and 25 fans and riot police were injured in the fighting with petrol bombs, knives, meat cleavers, chains, sticks and stones.

"Is this a soccer match or is this war?" asked the left-wing Cumhuriyet newspaper. "For a while, the stadium area was like a battlefield," the liberal Milliyet said.

The violence broke out after a match between two Istanbul clubs at the top of the First Division. Fenerbahce beat Besiktas 2-1 to become the League leaders.

Several hundred fans stoned and broke windows on a municipal bus and police and reporters' cars before up to 3,000 riot police restored order.

Swimming record

STOCKHOLM, March 20, (Reuters). A Swedish team set a world record in the 4x100 metres short course relay last night in the Swedish National Championships in Malmo with a time of three minutes, 14 seconds.

Anders Holmertz, Joakim Holmquist, Tommy Werner and Michael Soderland beat the previous record in a 25-metre pool of 3.15.07 set last June by a Soviet team in Monte Carlo.

The race was a specially staged record attempt featuring Sweden's four fastest freestyle swimmers.

Everton to take on winners of Wednesday's FA Cup quarterfinal

Liverpool to meet Forest in action replay

LONDON, March 20, (Reuters). Liverpool and Nottingham Forest were drawn on Monday to meet in an English FA Cup semifinal that will be an action replay of their clash at the same stage last year.

A year ago two John Aldridge goals gave Liverpool a 2-1 win but they were then beaten by Wimbledon in the final. This time, with Forest unbeaten in 18 games and Liverpool having won five in a row, there are no easy predictions about the rematch.

In the other semifinal Everton will take on the winners of Wednesday's quarterfinal replay between Norwich and West Ham, who drew 0-0 on Saturday.

The draw is an extra incentive to West Ham, who beat Everton in the semifinals on their way to winning the cup in 1980.

The draw means that Liverpool and Everton, near neighbours and long-time rivals, could meet in an FA Cup final for only the second time in the competition's 117-year history. Liverpool won 3-1 in 1986.

The matches will be played on the weekend of April 15 and 16. Forest's long-serving manager

Brian Clough, still looking for his first FA Cup triumph as player or manager, saw his team extend their impressive unbeaten run by beating Manchester United 1-0 in their quarter-finals on Saturday.

But Liverpool showed on the same day that they are approaching their best form as they demolished third-division Brentford 4-0 with two goals from Peter Beardsley.

A Forest victory would put them into their third Wembley final. They have already reached the finals of the League Cup and Simod Cup, a competition open to first and second division clubs.

Disappointing Everton have had a disappointing season in the League by their standards, although they are in the final of the Simod Cup where they will meet Forest.

Captain Kevin Ratcliffe stressed after Sunday's 1-0 win over Wimbledon how important it was for Everton to keep pace with Liverpool — and their supporters will be hoping for the opportunity to take revenge for the 1986 defeat.

Everton were beaten 1-0 by Liverpool in the fifth-round last

year at Goodison Park.

The club, who have appeared in ten finals and won the competition four times, last lifted the trophy in 1984 by beating Watford. They reached the final for the next two years but lost on both occasions, to Manchester United and Liverpool.

West Ham last won the cup in 1980, beating Arsenal 1-0. The only survivor from that side is goalkeeper Phil Parkes, who returned to first team action after a two-year absence for this season's fifth round.

Replay If John Lyall's side can win Wednesday's replay at Carrow Road, they will face a repeat of the 1980 semifinal when they beat Everton 2-1 in a replay.

West Ham will be seeking to lift the cup for the fourth time. They have lost only one final, in 1923.

Norwich, who are also strong contenders for the League title, are aiming for only their second semifinal appearance.

They reached the last four as a third-division side in 1959 when they were beaten by Luton in a replay. Luton went on to lose against Forest at Wembley.



Aldridge After Monday's draw Liverpool were installed as favourites by London bookmakers at odds of 6-4 with Everton 3-1 and Nottingham Forest 100-30. West Ham are 25-1 outsiders

and their double-chasing replay opponents Norwich 4-1.

A 59th minute goal by midfielder Stuart McCall proved decisive in a dour and physically-competitive quarterfinal at Everton.

Everton enjoyed most of the possession and might have won more convincingly had Scottish striker Graeme Sharp not failed to score from a ninth minute penalty.

Dived The spotkick was awarded when Wimbledon striker John Fashanu handled during a spell of Everton pressure. Wimbledon's Dutch goalkeeper Hans Segers dived low to his right to make the save.

Wimbledon, who beat Liverpool 1-0 to unexpectedly lift the Cup last year, created several openings of their own without seriously troubling Everton's Welsh international goalkeeper Neville Southall.

The winning goal came when midfielder Paul Bracewell burst past two tackles in the area, Irish midfielder Kevin Shedy crossed and McCall stabbed the ball home from close range.

PSV Eindhoven suffer another crushing blow

AMSTERDAM, March 20, (Reuters). PSV Eindhoven suffered another crushing blow on Sunday, thrashed 4-1 by Ajax just four days after their European Cup exit.

PSV badly needed a boost after Real Madrid ended their hopes of retaining the European crown. Instead, visitors Ajax inflicted PSV's first home defeat in the League for more than five years.

Ajax, anxious to avenge an embarrassing Cup defeat by Groningen last week, took an 11th minute lead when Surinamese-born midfielder Aron Winter scored from a corner.

PSV managed to apply real pressure only in the final quarter of the first half but were thwarted by goalkeeper Stanley Menzo. He saved a brilliant header from Hans Gillhaus and followed up by calmly stopping a close range shot by Brazilian striker Romario.

Save Menzo made another impressive save at the start of the second half as Romario headed on a pass from Gerald Vanenburg but an Ajax counter attack virtually decided the match.

Richard Witsche, who

replaced veteran international Arnold Muchren at left midfield, hit the post in the 53rd minute and as the ball bounced back Swedish striker Stephen Pettersson headed home.

Ajax went further ahead in the 65th minute when Aron Winter converted a corner.

PSV missed several chances. Ronald Koeman had one of his scorching free-kicks tipped over by Menzo and Gillhaus hit the post 15 minutes from time.

Luckier Gillhaus was luckier minutes later when he took control of a long pass by Koeman and worked it past Lloyd Doesburg who replaced Menzo when the goalkeeper suffered a leg injury in the 80th minute.

Midfielder Berry van Aerle felled Ajax striker Dennis Bergkamp in the penalty area and Mark Verkuyl converted the spotkick.

PSV, unbeaten at home in the League since September 1983, last lost a home game to Ajax 11 years ago.

But the Eindhoven side should still secure their fourth consecutive title because they remained four points ahead of second-placed Ajax.



Turkish riot policemen check soccer fans after they clash with each other and riot police early before a match between two clubs. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chinese clinch All-England badminton titles

LONDON, March 20, (UPI). World champion Yang Yang outplayed Danish rival Morten Frost, and Li Lingwei proved too experienced for Indonesian teenager Susi Susanti to provide China with both singles titles at the \$120,000 All-England Badminton Championships yesterday.

The left-handed Yang scored a surprisingly easy 15-6, 15-7 victory over four-time winner Frost, who has now lost the last two of his eight consecutive appearances in the final.

Li, 1984 Olympic champion, overcame her characteristic lethargic start to defeat her 18-year-old opponent 11-8, 11-4 in 31 minutes.

The men's final between the world's top two players turned into 35 minutes of misery for the British-based Dane, who deserted his normal immaculate defensive game and paid a heavy penalty.

Yang, 25, could not believe his luck as Frost, who will be 31 in two weeks, tried to take the initiative and fell victim to the world champion's heavy artillery.

Smashes Frost could not read the pace of Yang's smashes, nor his cunning mixture of explosive jump deliveries and deceptive slices. Yang strung together five successive points to break clear at 8-3 in the opening game and never looked back in the second when a series of unforced errors gave him a 7-3 advantage.

The Dane did not really come alive until facing match point at 14-4, when he won three stirring rallies before succumbing.

Yang, who has now beaten Frost in their last four meetings to lead 7-5, said, "It was my easiest win against him. I think he is past his peak and did not want to play long rallies, which is what he is best at doing."

"I think he was confused about which tactic to use and was not patient enough. I feel as good about winning this title for the first time as when I beat him in the world championship final two years ago," said Yang, who had not got past the quarterfinals in three All-England appearances.

Pressure "He was good and I was bad," Frost said. "I put myself under pressure. I thought my usual patience was not enough and I had to score the points before he did and I am not too good at that type of game. I was trying everything, but I made too many unforced errors. I guess I panicked a bit and tried to play a game I am not good at," he said.

Li, 25, had to fight an uphill battle before imposing her authority on Susanti.

Indonesia has never won the women's singles title at the All-England, but the junior world

champion showed no signs of early nerves against the world No. 2.

In fact, an upset looked on the cards when Susanti led 7-1 in the opening game, thanks to some superb cross court drop shots.

But Li raised the tempo, and from 3-8 reeled off the next eight points. Susanti's resistance crumbled completely after that as Li raced to victory.

South Korea mopped up the three doubles titles with Park Joo Bong and Chung Myung Hee winning two apiece.

After partner each other to a 15-1, 15-9 victory in the mixed, they went their separate ways with equal successes. Park and Lee Sang Bek defeated Indonesians Rudy Gunawan and Eddy Hartono 15-1, 15-9 in the men's doubles, and Chung Myung Hee and Chung So Young took the women's event by beating China's Sun Xiaoping and Zhou Lei 15-7, 15-4.

Inter widen League title lead

ROME, March 20, (UPI). Internazionale di Milano widened its lead in Italian soccer League standings Sunday to four points over second-place Napoli by defeating Sampdoria 1-0.

Inter's victory put it within one step of securing the Italian League championship now held by Milan.

The Neapolitan side, deprived of injured Argentinian striker Diego Maradona, meanwhile was held to a 1-1 draw playing low-ranked Lazio in Rome's Olympic stadium.

After Sunday's action Inter led the table with 38 points. Napoli held second place with 34, followed by Sampdoria at 30, AC Milan at 28 and Juventus of Turin with 26.

Sampdoria played an admirable first half, launching a series of attacks on Inter goalkeeper Walter Zenga. But the Genoa team was unable to please hometown fans with a goal.

The single goal of the important match came in the 48th minute, as Andrea Mandorlini headed the ball into the net on a corner kick from Argentinian Ramon Diaz. The setback took the wind out of Samp, which proved no further threat.

Napoli sustained a major setback in failing to defeat Lazio, thereby letting Inter spread the gap. The absence of Maradona, nursing a strained thigh muscle, was evident.

"We didn't put on our usual pressure up front," said Napoli

coach Ottavio Bianchi after the disappointing game. "Maradona? Obviously for us he is important."

Another factor was fatigue after Napoli's tough but winning UEFA Cup match against Juventus last week. Maradona was substituted at the beginning of extra time for exhaustion.

Lead The Neapolitan team took an early lead as Maurizio Neri scored a lucky win over Leixoes and stay on course for the Portuguese title.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, Benfica looked set to suffer their first home defeat of the season until Ricardo headed in an Antonio Pacheco cross in the 88th minute.

In the dying seconds, Pacheco scored from a penalty to keep Benfica six points clear of champions Porto, who beat Fafe 1-0.

Bandeirinha scored Porto's goal with a 30-metre shot in the 15th minute, but with only eight games left time appears to have run out for the champions who have already been knocked out of the Cup.

Australia tie with Israel to take lead

RAMAT GAN, Israel, March 20, (AP). In a game plagued with penalties the Australian national team tied Israel 1-1 to take the lead in the World Cup's Oceania Division.

Israel's forward, Eli Ohana, scored the game's first goal on a penalty shot in the 67th minute after Australia's Alan Davidson handled the ball.

Dominance Australia tied the game five minutes later with a free kick from Charlie Yankos after Israel's Nir Allon fouled Australia's Eddy Karanewich.

"We didn't play all the time on

the highest level, but the result is positive and we got our points," said Australia's coach Frank Arok.

After weak play in the first period, Israel came to dominate the second half and almost scored a game-winning goal in the last four minutes as Roni Rosenthal drove to within 20 metres of Australia's goal.

But defender Wally Savor slammed into Rosenthal, ending Israel's hopes and getting himself a red card.

Israel was unable to take advantage of Australia's weakened position and the game ended in a tie.

Benfica snatch a lucky win

LISBON, March 20, (Reuters). Benfica scored twice in the last three minutes yesterday to snatch a lucky win over Leixoes and stay on course for the Portuguese title.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime, Benfica looked set to suffer their first home defeat of the season until Ricardo headed in an Antonio Pacheco cross in the 88th minute.

In the dying seconds, Pacheco scored from a penalty to keep Benfica six points clear of champions Porto, who beat Fafe 1-0.

Bandeirinha scored Porto's goal with a 30-metre shot in the 15th minute, but with only eight games left time appears to have run out for the champions who have already been knocked out of the Cup.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Gulf Air Trophy

KIFCO will meet their traditional rivals Starlite Cricket Club in the finals of Gulf Air Trophy at Sabah Al Salem Area (N.C.) ground on Friday.

This 45 overs a side full-day match will start at 9.00 am. Each bowler is allowed to bowl a maximum of nine overs in the match which will be supervised by umpires from Evergreen Cricket Club.

Saleh Issa Kindy, Area Manager of Gulf Air will be the chief guest and will distribute prizes. Man of the Match will be awarded with a return ticket to London, Karachi, Bombay or Colombo, according to the choice of the winner.

Saudi Arabia win

SANAA, March 20. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia beat North Yemen 1-0 (halftime 0-0) in the World Group Two soccer qualifier here today.

Scorer: Ahmed Jamil (79th min)

Standings

Tabulate under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points:

Saudi Arabia 2 0 0 0 6 4 4
North Yemen 1 0 1 0 1 2 2
Yemen 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

Result: March 10 North Yemen 0 Syria 1, March 15 Saudi Arabia 5 Syria 4.

Remaining matches: March 25 Syria v North Yemen, March 30 Syria v Saudi Arabia, April 5 Saudi Arabia v North Yemen.

Half marathon

ROME, March 20. (AP): British runner Carl Hackery led from start to finish yesterday to win the 15th annual "Roma-Ostia" half marathon.

The 27-year-old Hackery covered the 21.1-kilometre (13-mile) distance from the Italian capital to the seaside resort in one hour, two minutes and nine seconds.

Ice hockey

SYDNEY, March 20. (AP): China rallied from down two goals at the end of the second period to score a 3-3 draw with underdog Bulgaria in the C pool World Ice Hockey Championships.

Chinese captain Wang Anfu and Liu Wenwu, who scored twice, played brilliantly in the last period to secure the draw.

Senna fastest

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 20. (AP): Reigning Formula-1 world champion Ayrton Senna of Brazil posted the quickest overall time yesterday, the last day of week-long track testing for Brazilian Grand Prix, which starts March 26.

Bridge results

RESULTS of Westminster system 17 bridge game held on March 12 at the Regency Palace hotel.

N/S

1. Khurshed Zubairi & Abdul Sattar

2. Mamdoh Sabri & Saad El Said

3. Magdi Mesdani & Adel Bayoumi

E/W

1. (a) Jaya Sapre & Narendra Shah

(b) Mohammed Merchant & J. Das

2. Dhruva Mukherjee & Rani Bhat

Results of the bridge game played on March 19:

N/S

1. (a) Nahil Akel & Mohammad Al Ba

(b) Shreien Bafouni & Ahmed Hneidy

3. Magdi Mesdani & Adel Bayoumi

E/W

1. Jaya Sapre & Narendra Shah

2. Sudhir Durnra & Maccolin Monteiro

3. Dhruva Mukherjee & Rani Bhat

Results of Regency Ladies Bridge Club games held last Sunday:

1. Lollo Murthwaite & Nahil Akel

2. Bianca Mousalli & Fatima Abuljohain

3. (a) Jamila Akel & Margaret Whitaker

(b) Subendran Oskay & Nida Khalaf

Hubara Centre Bridge club games held on March 18:

N/S

1. Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah

2. Anura & Ghazar Gajjar

3. Ghazi & Yaseen

E/W

1. Jaya Sapre & D. Pereira

2. Omar & Qaddoura

3. Razem & Kamal

Results of Hubara Bridge Club game held on last Saturday:

N/S

1. (a) Nahil Akel & Narendra Shah

(b) Sultan Ali & Sultan Ali

3. Kamal Arafah & Mohammed Kadoura

E/W

1. Camelia Guirguis & George Masoud

2. Matrouk & Rasem

3. Sudhir Durnra & Chandra Sekhar

Results of Messilah Ladies Bridge Club games:

1. Lollo Murthwaite & Nahil Akel

2. Jamila Akel & Nada Alaruddin

3. Subendran Oskay & Nida Khalaf

Results of SAS Ladies Bridge Club game:

1. Clara Baviere & Dona Materny

2. Houda Tanas & Camille Sawabini

3. Raba Abboushi & Helen Hughes

Results of the SAS Bridge Club games played on Sunday:

1. Helen Hughes & Nida Khalaf

2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite

3. Nada Alaruddin & Fatima Abuljohain

Noah beaten in five sets

Mecir battles back to win Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, Calif., March 20. (Reuters): Miloslav Mecir came back from two sets down to beat a hard-serving Yannick Noah 3-62-66-16-26-3 yesterday in the final of the \$702,500 Indian Wells Grand Prix tennis tournament.

The 12th-seeded Noah, who pounded in 22 aces against his seventh-seeded opponent, double-faulted at match point to end the contest after nearly three hours.

Mecir collected \$135,000 for his victory, while Noah received half that amount as runner-up.

Attacking

"I thought he already had me but I just didn't want to give it up," said Mecir. "I was mixing it up a little too much but then I realised it was better if I was attacking more."

Noah, a four-time finalist here

and champion in 1982, began dynamically with his serve-and-volley game in high gear.

Riding his sizzling serve, Noah raced through the opening two sets and easily dominated a sleepy-looking Mecir.

But the Czechoslovak turned the momentum around in the first game of the third set as he began to come to the net more often. He saved three break points against him and went on to break the Frenchman twice with passing shots to clinch the set 6-1.

A brilliant lob gave Mecir a break for 2-1 in the fourth set and he broke Noah again for a 4-1 on a passing shot as he evened the best-of-five match at two sets apiece.

The Frenchman seemed to regain his drive in the fifth set, but his surge was halted when

Mecir made another service break in the fifth game with a blazing backhand crosscourt return.

Double fault

Mecir held easily to reach 5-3 and then broke Noah for the match when the Frenchman served up the double fault.

Mecir's change of tactics, from groundstrokes to serve-and-volley, did not surprise Noah.

"When I was up two sets I was expecting him to do something different," Noah said. "He started to play totally different tennis. What makes his game special is that he can do a lot of different things. He can adjust his game."

Noah said that a lack of conditioning let him down.

"When I'm tired I'm not as quick," said Noah, who rested his sore knees and took his two children to Disneyland rather

than practice before the tournament.

"I was a little slow and tired and my game requires more energy than his because his technique is better."

Errors

Noah, playing in his first tournament final in more than a year, had 30 unforced errors to Mecir's 26.

"I had a little bit of a letdown in the middle of the third set," Noah said. "He started playing much better. He was more aggressive. I knew when I was up two sets to expect him to do something different. I got slow and tired for a while. It was hot."

In the doubles final, Boris Becker of West Germany and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland beat Kevin Curren and David Pate of the United States, 7-6 (7-5), 7-5.



Crew member Robert Calicut of the Richard Petty STP team falls to the ground allame as gasoline from the race car catches fire in Hampton, Georgia on Sunday. Calicut is reported to be in stable but guarded condition with burns over 50 per cent of his body. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graf overcomes Evert to maintain winning streak

BOCA RATON, Fla., March 20. (Reuters): Steffi Graf won her fourth straight tournament and extended her 1989 unbeaten streak to 22 matches with a hard-fought win over Chris Evert in the final of the Florida Tennis Championship yesterday.

Graf, after losing her first set of the year, bounced back to beat Evert 4-6 6-2 6-3 and claim the \$60,000 first prize.

Evert settled for \$24,000 and missed an opportunity to reclaim her world number three ranking from Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who moved up two weeks ago. A win would have moved Evert past Sabatini, a third-round loser here.

Strategy

Graf, whose 1989 titles include the Australian Open, was bothered by Evert's strategy as the American veteran took pace off her shots and hit the ball down the middle of the court.

Evert won the first set by converting her second break point of the set in the seventh game when Graf, who double-faulted twice in that game, netted a forehand off a sizzling backhand from Evert.

The West German broke quickly in the second game of the second set to lead 2-0 as Evert began to make more unforced errors. She broke again in the eighth game when Evert netted two backhands after double-faulting.

The two traded service breaks at love in the opening games of the third set and worked their



Graf: fourth straight win

way to the eighth game on serve when Evert let a 40-15 lead slip away and Graf won the final eight points of the match.

Graf now leads Evert 7-6 in career meetings.

Satisfied

"I'm satisfied to win the match. I didn't feel as good as the other days. I didn't have the feeling I usually do, but I don't know why," Graf said.

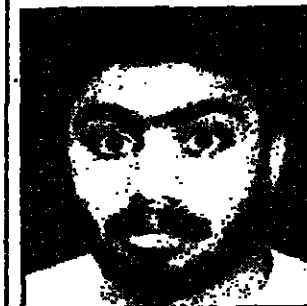
Evert said that breaking Graf's 42-set winning streak was satisfying but added that she

thought she could have won the match.

"I was happy that I won the first set, but in the third set at 3-3, I realised she was very beatable today. In the third set maybe she was hitting the angles a little sharper and I felt I was doing all the running," Evert said.

In the doubles final, Helena Sukova and Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia, the second seeded team, downed Jo Durie of Great Britain and Mary Joe Fernandez of Miami, 6-4, 6-2.

Kuwait to meet Pakistan



Khaled Ashkanani

THE Kuwait national tennis team is currently preparing for its second round of matches in the Davis Cup. The Kuwaiti team will meet Pakistan during the period from April 7-9 at Yarmouk courts.

This is the first time that Kuwait has played in the Davis Cup competition. In their first match, Kuwait beat Jordan.

The national team consists of 5 players: Khaled Hasan, Khaled Ashkanani, Ayman Al Ashwak, Hashem Salem and Walid Al Bannai.

Kite retains Players golf title

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 20. (Reuters): Tom Kite used an aggressive style to conquer gusting winds and win the \$1.35-million Players Championship yesterday for his second triumph in as many weeks on the PGA tour.

Kite battled the blustery conditions to post a one-under-par round of 71 for a nine-under total of 279 — one stroke better than his fellow-American Chip Beck, the third round leader, who carded a 73.

Only seven players in the field of 74 bettered par.

"Over the years I know people have said I'm a conservative player," Kite said. "But in my own mind, I've always been as aggressive as I've had to be."

Bruce Lietzke, the second-round leader, shot 72 to finish at 281, with Australian Greg Norman and American Fred Couples another shot back at six-under 282.

The win for Kite was the 12th of his career and came on the heels of his playoff victory over compatriot Davis Love III in the

Orlando Invitational. The \$243,000 he won here put him on top of the earnings list with \$561,723.

In Paris, Spain, Briton Mark Roe won his first European golf tour title yesterday when he beat close rival Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain by one shot to win the Catalan Open.

Overnight leader Roe holed a bunker shot at the 16th to set up his triumph. He finished with a final round of 71 for a 13-under-par total of 279.

Olazabal, who chipped in at the 17th to keep the outcome in doubt to the final putt, finished on 280 together with Britons Gordon Grant and Colin Montgomerie.

Tucson Open

In Tucson, Arizona, Lori Garbacz played steady down the stretch to post a two-under-par 70 and seal a four-stroke victory in the Tucson Open yesterday for her first career LPGA title.

After a volatile start that included three birdies and two bogeys, Garbacz settled down to score eight straight pars on the

back side to finish with a 14-under-par 274 total.

"I can't tell you how thrilled I am to be here today," Garbacz said in accepting the winners' cheque for \$45,000. "Once I got through the front nine I felt good because I'd played the back nine more consistently all week."

Nancy Lopez fired a five-under-par 67 to finish alone in second at 10-under 278. "I made more putts today than yesterday," she said. "That was the whole difference."

Martha Nause, who led the tournament the first two days, started the final round two strokes behind third-round leader Garbacz but by the midway point the two were tied at 13-under.

But Nause bogeyed four holes over the back nine before managing a birdie on the final hole to finish in a four-way tie for third place with Kristi Albers, Jody Rosenthal and Australian Jan Stephenson.

Garbacz, an 11-year veteran, said she was relieved to have finally won a tournament.

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